

A Liturgy for the Coronavirus Crisis

(Written by Kelly Aalseth, in collaboration with Jon Ball)

Our heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We worship you as the creator and redeemer of all things.
Thank you, Father, for your loving care for all of creation.
Thank you, Jesus, for entering our world and taking on our flesh.
Thank you, Holy Spirit, for giving all creatures breath and helping us flourish.

We pray for those who are sick and for their caretakers.
Heal them fully and quickly.
Protect from shame and blame and the feeling that this is their fault.
Hold them with your love and grace.

We pray for the vulnerable.
Protect them from sickness and fear.
Remind us that every human life is precious to you.
Provide for those who suffer economically and whose livelihood is at stake.

We pray for those in authority.
For every medical professional, strategic leader, and government official.
Give them wisdom and discernment, warm hearts and clear minds.
Help them listen to your voice above all others.

We confess our idols, Oh God.
In this crisis, expose the false gods we trust.
We acknowledge that we hope in many things rather than you.
Help us place our trust where it belongs, in you.

We need your mercy, Oh Lord.
Forgive us for our love of knowledge, money, and control.
Forgive us for valuing productivity more than people.
Forgive us for our racism and lack of attention to the poor.

Comfort us, Oh God,
When we feel disoriented and when our plans change.
Comfort us when our dreams are derailed.
No disappointment is too small for your attention.

Help us breathe, Oh God.
We let go of responsibilities that we were not made to carry.
We let go of the need to predict our future.
We let go of the fear of the unknown.

Revive us, Oh God.
Revive us with rest and the ability to slow down.
Revive us with creative ministry and new opportunities.
Revive us with eyes to see and ears to listen.

Draw us into deeper dependence on you.
We trust you to be our good doctor and compassionate caretaker.
We trust you to strengthen us and to provide.
We trust you because you are completely trustworthy.

Amen.