

Sovereign God,

We come into your presence today anticipating your movement. Anticipating your promises, your faithfulness, your mercy. And that gives us hope – hope that all is not lost. Hope that the aches and pains we feel right now will someday be no more. Hope that our fear or anxiety will not master us, not in the end. Hope that our grief will one day turn into deep joy. Hope that our lives even now can be lived with purpose for you, the Savior of the world. By your Spirit Lord, instill this kind of hope in our hearts, and keep us with you each step of the way.

We confess that these are strange times. We find ourselves in a moment filled with worry, anxiety, and fear. So while everything changes from day to day, and at times we find ourselves at a loss for what to do, we turn to you, the God who promises to always be with us. We need you.

God, we need your healing presence. Please heal those who have contracted the Covid-19 virus, and heal the exhausted minds and bodies of the health care workers treating them. Bring healing to those wrestling with disease or illness other than this new coronavirus, and don't allow us to forget them in their time of need.

God, we need your comfort. Many of us are worried or scared. Many of us are lonely and isolated. Many of us are anxious because our pay has been cut or eliminated. Many of us are exhausted by new schedules and shifting responsibilities. Comfort us by your Holy Spirit, Lord, and take us into your arms. And enable us to carry your comforting presence to others through a phone call or a take-out order or a video chat.

God, we need your direction. For many of us, our patterns and routines have been drastically altered, and we are still adjusting. Quiet our hearts so that we may find you in both times of bustling activity and relentless boredom. Speak to us through Scripture and prayer. Hide your Word within our hearts.

Lord God, we're especially grateful right now for the stories of your faithfulness in the lives of our friends and family. May we listen carefully to those stories, and let them narrate our lives, too. It's so easy to internalize stories of evil or fear or despair, so train our ears to your work in the world. And encourage us to share our stories, in order to encourage one another and build up the body of Christ. Encourage us to listen to the stories of our neighbors, too, to hear where they long for you or where they find you.

In everything Lord, we put our trust in you. And because we don't always know what to say when we pray, or even when to pray, we're grateful for Jesus, who prays with us and for us. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.