

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are the God of life and the God of hope. You are the God of hidden possibilities and sure promises. We approach you now in prayer because we trust that wherever we are, you are there. Seated at our tables, or on our couches, we trust that you still gather your people by the power of your Holy Spirit, and we bring our prayers to you in that confidence. "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." (Psalm 139:7-12)

God, thank you for the gifts that you reveal to us even in a difficult time. Thank you for a different kind of attention that comes from this change of pace, even though the change of pace may be unwelcome. Thank you for health and safety for many in our community. Thank you for the courage and strength of spirit that you are giving to so many nurses and doctors and other medical professionals, and also to ordinary people who are figuring out ways to care for the community and for themselves.

Thank you for the rhythm of changing seasons, revealing itself once again as the flowers begin to bloom and spring arrives. Thank you for the joy that sunshine gives to us and for the reminder of new life that spring gives to us every year.

God, our protector, care for each of us now. Heal those who are sick, both with COVID-19 and with other illnesses. Give strength and healing to those who live with mental illness. Protect those who are in abusive relationships or dangerous situations. Encourage those who are lonely. Care for us each not only individually but as a community. Remind us of our love for one another. Strengthen the bonds between us and use this time to change us in the ways your Spirit would have us change, and to confirm in us the things your Spirit would have us confirm.

Gracious God, bless the ministry of Calvin Church now and in the future. Equip our Elders and Deacons for their continued servant leadership. Strengthen our pastors and church staff members and give them joy in responding to your call to service. Give to each member creativity and love as we seek fully to live into our identity as the body of Christ.

Accept all these prayers offered in Jesus' name, and give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.