

God of hope,

We come to you, the Lord of our whole life and the author of the universe. Thank you for summer breezes, for the reminder of your fresh presence in our lives by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the moments of joy that can saturate this season: for good meals, outdoor walks and bike rides, time with family, calm evenings. Thank you for the hope we find in Jesus Christ, and in a time where we feel threatened by hopelessness, we cling to your Christ-fulfilled promises.

But Lord, even in our gratefulness we sometimes experience great need, or we know deep pain. So today we ask that you come near to us now, and in your healing mercy alleviate our tired bodies and minds. Be with those grieving someone they love right now; Lord, comfort them and bring them the good hope of your presence. Give strength to those recovering from illness or injury or surgery. Bring shelter and safety to folks in our community who face the brutality of hot summers alone or without cool shelter.

Eternal God, continue to show us ways to be involved in the lives of people who experience isolation right now. Whether it's a simple phone call or a safe visit outdoors, show us how to be in community with one another in these strange times.

God of hope, we pray for our nation and our world today. Please be near to our leaders – tug their hearts toward wisdom and collaboration, and move us all away from divisiveness. Thank you Lord for the justice seekers looking at our own communities and at communities around the world. Do not let their efforts be in vain. Guide us all toward the places your Holy Spirit is already at work, and reveal to us the providence that you promise in Scripture.

Lord God, in all things captivate our hearts with your hope. Teach us to wait on you, and please show up in our lives again and again. As we pray to you this morning, hear our prayer and perfect it in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Teacher who taught us this prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**