



For Peace and Fortitude in Worry

In this age of anxiety & stress, we ask for your Presence to be made clearly amongst us.

Be with us as we confront illnesses that leave many of us in a state of worry for our families, our friends, our colleagues, our communities, our nation and our world.

As hospitals and health care providers seek to continue the healing ministry of You, may they have fortitude for the road ahead, knowing that you are walking this journey with them with your mighty Hand. Remind them of both their strength and Your strength.

We ask for Your comfort upon those who have already lost loved ones during the time of viruses. And, may healing be upon those who are physically suffering and spiritually suffering through this season.

May the wilderness of this time & the uncertainty we may feel, strengthen our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit.

You have been with us in every age and will remain a refuge — to take solace, to recollect our thoughts, to remember that all things of this world are fleeting, and this too shall pass.

Let us recall the calming of the storm by your Hand. Let us today and tomorrow and the days ahead lean on Your fortitude, and resolve to care for each other and support each other each through this difficult journey before us in our lives both collectively and individually.

Amidst the darkness, the confusion and the storm of worry, may your Presence be made abundantly revealed so that Your light, Your hand and Your strength, gives us steadiness, refuge, clarity of purpose, and hope.

Amen.

— *prayer for the NACC by Elizabeth (Lisa) Ecks in Sacramento, CA*



A Prayer for God's Protection for All Caregivers During a Pandemic

Opening

Let us be still in the presence of God and one another.

God calls each of us to a specific work; to make a contribution that only we can make. We pray today for the courage, skill and sacrifice of all caregivers serving in this time.

Reading

Pillar of Cloud and Fire, Exodus 13: 21-22

The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Closing

Pray with me: God who traveled before and behind the Israelites in their journey from slavery to freedom, surround and support the men and women working in your healing ministry today. Never leave them, comfort them, and keep them well. Give them the strength to care for those who are sick and dying as well as the strength to receive help from others.

Be with the families of all who serve. Send your peace for their anxieties, joy for their fears, hope for their despair, and light for their darkness. We pray in the confidence of your love. Amen.

God is Close: A Reminder in the Midst of Global Pandemic

Leader As our lives seem distant and disjointed, we remember that God is always close and in this divine closeness we are one no matter where we sit.

Reader A reading from the first book of Kings.

"And the word of the LORD came to [Elijah]: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He replied, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.' The LORD said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.'

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, **but the LORD was not in the wind**. After the wind there was an earthquake, **but the LORD was not in the earthquake**. After the earthquake came a fire, **but the LORD was not in the fire**. And after the fire came a *gentle whisper*. *When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave*. Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" (1 Kings 19, NIV).

Reflection We are living through a period of deep disruption, chaos and anxiety. The things and people we hold most dear have been separated from us and the normal order of life has been utterly upended. The prophet Elijah was in a similar place. Rejected by his people, chased by his government, he was the last prophet in the land of Israel. Lonely and afraid, disconnected and heartbroken, Elijah waits for God.

God does not arrive in wind. God does not arrive in an earthquake. God does not arrive in a fire. The creator of all that is and was and is to come, is present in the gentle whisper.

God is in the gentle whisper. Though the wind rages, the earth shakes and fire scorches all we see, God will be there, close enough to whisper peace to our weary hearts.



In Days of Uncertainty (coronavirus)

Loving God, we come to you full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples, and make us into steady pillars for those around us. In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. We pray especially for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened. For the children who will miss meals due to school closures. For those already isolated, lonely and scared. Loving God, give them your peace, and through our hands ensure they have what they need.

Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope. Amen.

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have to risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving
embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

- *Cameron Bellm*,
[www.ccvichapel.org/post/prayer-for-a-pandemic-
cameron-bellm](http://www.ccvichapel.org/post/prayer-for-a-pandemic-cameron-bellm)



God is Close

As we navigate this pandemic, may we remember the absolute tenderness and perpetual closeness of God. In all the chaos and fear, God is always close enough that we can hear the divine whisper in our hearts.

Closing

God of silence and stillness, we trust you are with us in this time of noise and chaos. We pray for an end to this pandemic. Whisper your words of comfort, encouragement and hope to all who need them in these days of fear. Draw close to those who are sick and all those who risk illness, caring for them, protecting and uplifting them. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

When this is over,
may we never again take for granted
a handshake with a stranger
conversations with neighbors
a crowded theater
Friday night out
the taste of Communion
a routine checkup
the school rush each morning
coffee with a friend
the stadium roaring
each deep breath
a boring Tuesday
life itself.

When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be.
And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

- *Laura Kelly Fanucci*
<https://laurakellyfanucci.com/>