



March 30, 2020 - Prayer from Chaplain Venessa

Psalm 42:1-2

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so our soul longs for you, O God.

² Our soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall we come and behold the face of God?

O God, we, with the Psalmist, long for you. For it is a fearful time, an anxious time, a foreboding time. We are not sure how to move forward, and we find ourselves immobilized, feeling things we wish we weren't feeling, lashing out sometimes at those we love most, brooding over hurts and resentments, sometimes engulfed by guilt and what we have said or done or not said or done. O God, find us, then in the midst of that morass; calm us with your gentle presence, forgive us our failings, and may we know once again the wisdom of your so often repeated counsel, "Be not anxious." Turn our grudges into gratitude, for even in the midst of illness and fearfulness, you send saints to help us through.

And so, we are indeed grateful for technology that keeps us connected even while apart; and pray for those who help keep that technology working. We pray for those brave medical personnel who work diligently to heal. We give thanks for leaders who do not foment fecklessness but by example and deed show us how to be better citizens whose actions evidence our care for all. We thank you for family and friends with whom we have re-connected and pray that those connections would continue. We thank you for scientists hard at work to tame this fearsome virus, and pray that we would never undercut their work. We pray for all pastors who are so exhausted and yet trying so hard to minister well in a situation that is so unprecedented.

Finally, O God of hope, we pray for those who are grieving today, those who cannot be with their loved ones who are suffering, those who are suddenly jobless, those whose plans have been upended and whose spirits

are laid low. Find these ones with your hope, O God, just as you have promised to find us with your Spirit that shall never leave us, that walks with us in hard things, that offers us strength.

Psalm 91:11-12

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

¹² On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

For all these things we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the sake of this fragile world which He loves. AMEN