



April 15, 2020 - Prayer from Chaplain Venessa

Psalm 143:11-12

***For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.***

Compassionate God,

From the shores of the river Jordan to the steps of the Temple Mount, you have cared for the well-being of your people. Your healing teaches us your compassion for our frailty.

Thank you for caring for us no matter our status in this world. We ask your blessing on those who emulate you as they provide the ministry of healing to all those in need. Guide, bless and encourage your faithful health care servants who willingly jeopardize their own, and their families', health and safety to confront sickness and disease. Enable them to relieve suffering and assist in the healing process. Guide researchers as they seek greater understanding of your universe and develop vaccines and treatments that will reduce suffering and death. Enable suppliers who ensure materials and equipment are available as needed using creativity as they sometimes seek to do more with less.

God, our refuge and strength,

These are truly trying times for all of us as we continue to face a rapidly spreading virus, we continue with challenges of panic buying and or fear of buying anything at all. We have seen the worst in people and the best. Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ and Christ's promise to never leave us. We are holding one another in prayer. Communities are physically separated,

But we are still deeply connected through our common humanity, spirituality, and strong faith in you, our God.

How great is your love, Lord God, how wide is your mercy! Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life with rules or doctrines that you dismiss; but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with affection, **God our refuge**, shelter us under your wings as we kneel before you in grief and pain. We pray for all those who have lost a beloved child, parent, sibling, lover, or friend . . . those who have witnessed horror . . . those who are wounded in body or spirit . . . for each is a child made in your image. We pray for ourselves, O Lord. Restore our hope, and mend our hearts, even as we weep with grief and tremble with anger.

Psalm 143:1

Hear our prayer, O Lord; give ear to our supplications in your faithfulness; answer us in your righteousness.

Amen