



**April 8, 2020 - Prayer from Chaplain Venessa**

**Deuteronomy 31:8**

***The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.***

Eternal God, whose son Jesus Christ bore our grief and carried our sorrows on a cross, hear us as we pray on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

We pray for those in distress, the sick and the dying; the elders, the lonely, and the bereaved.

Help us, O Lord, as we seek to minister to them in your name, demonstrating your love and bringing your grace to bear witness in their lives.

Bless us O God, in our pilgrimage through this time, with Your protection, with the love of Jesus, and the leading of the Spirit.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no 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 settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

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 community.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In our darkness, God, be our light.

Take from us the spirit of indifference and discouragement, and ambition. But rather give to us, your servants, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love.

**Psalm 27:1**

***The Lord is our light and our salvation—whom shall we fear? The Lord is the stronghold of our life—of whom shall we be afraid?***

Lord, thank You for lighting the way in this dark time. We depend on You, not only for our salvation, but for our day-to-day peace and provision. You are the only stronghold we need.

God in your mercy, Hear our Prayers

AMEN