

First Yarmouth Plains Baptist Church

A Prayer for Sunday, Lent 4 March 22, 2020

Gracious God, Giver of Life
and of Eternal Life,
receive our praise and thanks
for all our blessings.

We pray for Mother Earth which is so fragile
and yet so powerful—
for Canada, that, though
fractured by politics, religion, historic traumas and opinions
we are uniting in a common cause
against a virus that threatens many lives and livelihoods.

We pray for countries that have been hardest hit
that they will find the strength and resources to rebound.

We think of our leaders: national, regional,
and local and pray for their safety and well-being.

We remember your community agencies, businesses,
entrepreneurs, professionals, store owners, restaurants and
medical personnel and support systems for
the elderly, homeless, and abused persons and families.

We hold up our neighbors, young, old,
and in-between who are doing their part to
keep themselves and others safe, and supplied
with food and prescriptions.

Thank you, God for the human “angels of mercy” in our midst who check in, run errands, share a joke or a smile.

Help us to remember to say thanks when we have an opportunity.

Help us to lift each other up with a cheery wave a smile, a text or a phone call.

Forgive us when we vent our frustrations or anxieties on others, or point blame and criticize out of a need to exert some control over the situation.

May we remember that we can express all our emotions openly and freely to you, with no fear of reprisal. for you, O God, love us unconditionally.

We pray that our church and the other faith communities will learn to cope and adjust to this new normal for as long as we need, and be kind to others as we have opportunity.

We pray for people here and abroad whose lives are directly or forever changed by the Covid19 virus.

For the sick, grieving, and dying ones, may your grace and peace surround them.

May your love buoy their spirits up, carrying them through this difficult time.

For the people who are named on our church prayer list, and others we know,

we pray for wisdom, courage and healing.

Into their hour of loneliness, bring your peace--

Into their days of suffering, bring your strength--

Into their sleepless anxious nights, bring the assurance
of your presence.

We pray that people who are feeling lost will be found
and find in their faith and spiritual heritage
a place of safety, security, and joy.

May we, who feel shut in, remember the words
of the apostle Paul, who while in chains himself, encouraged
his dear Christian friends who were worried about him:

“Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!...

Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer

And supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

(Philippians 4:4f)

Gracious God, as we adjust to this new normal

may we use this time to connect with

our loved ones, and church friends,

and take time apart for spiritual

reflection, rest and connection with nature.

Help us to keep our eyes open

and our hearts tuned to signs of amazing grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.