

PRAYING IN A GLOBAL CIRCLE OF HOPE

Caring for Ourselves and Others and Earth

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We are invited to share this prayer as we struggle together to bring this global pandemic of COVID-19 to an end. We are encouraged to light a special candle or lamp as we say the prayer at 6:30 pm daily, ensuring that the prayer circles Earth in light, hour after hour.

PRaise SONG FOR THE PANDEMIC

Praise be the nurses and doctors, every medical staff bent over flesh to offer care,
for lives saved and lives lost, for showing up either way,
Praise for the farmers, tilling soil, planting seeds so food can grow,
an act of hope if ever there was,
Praise be the janitors and garbage collectors, the grocery store assistants,
and the truck drivers barreling through long quiet nights,
Give thanks for bus drivers, delivery persons, postal workers,
and all those keeping an eye on water, gas, and electricity,
Blessings on our leaders, making hard choices for the common good,
offering words of assurance,
Celebrate the scientists, working away to understand the thing that plagues us,
to find an antidote, all the medicine makers,
Praise be the journalists keeping us informed,
Praise be the teachers, finding new ways to educate children from afar,
and blessings on parents holding it together for them,
Blessed are the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, all those
who worry for their health,
Praise for those who stay at home to protect them,
Blessed are those who have no homes or whose homes are unsafe,
Blessed are the domestic violence victims, on lock down with abusers,
Praise for the poets and artists, the singers and storytellers,
all those who nourish with words and sound and colour,
Blessed are the spiritual leaders, pastoral ministers and therapists of every kind,
bringing words of comfort,
Blessed are the ones whose jobs are lost, who have no savings,
who feel fear of the unknown gnawing,
Blessed are those in grief, especially who mourn alone,
Blessed are those who have passed into the Great Night,
Praise for police and firefighters, paramedics, and all who work to keep us safe,
Praise for all the workers and caregivers of every kind,
Praise for the sound of notifications, messages from friends reaching
across the distance, give thanks for laughter and kindness,
Praise be our four-footed companions, with no forethought or anxiety,
responding only in love,
Praise for the seas and rivers, forests and stones who teach us to endure,

Give thanks for our ancestors, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived,
their resilience is in our bones, our blood,
Blessed is the water that flows over our hands and the soap
that helps keep them clean, each time a baptism,
Praise every moment of stillness and silence, so new voices can be heard,
praise the chance at slowness,
Praise be the birds who continue to sing the sky awake each day,
Praise for the primrose poking yellow petals from dark earth,
Blessed is the air clearing overhead so one day we can breathe deeply again,
And when this has passed may we say that love spread more quickly
than any virus ever could,
May we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin.

~ Christine Valters Paintner, *Abbey of the Arts*

GOD'S WORD AS SOURCE OF HOPE IN THIS TIME

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Lk 1:78-79

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lam 3:22-23

You may like to use the hymn version of this verse from Lamentations by Miriam Martin pbvm which can be found on her CD entitled *A New Dreaming*.

CLOSING HYMN: SUSCIPE OF CATHERINE McAULEY

Refrain

My God, I am yours for time and eternity,
Lord, I am yours forever.
It is you who must teach me
to trust in your Providence, Loving Lord.

You are a God of love and tenderness.
I place my trust in you,
And I ask that you grant me acceptance of your will,
Loving Lord.

Refrain

Take from my heart all painful anxiety.
Let nothing sadden me but sin.
And then let my delight be hoping to see your face,
God, my all.

Refrain



You can find different melodies for the *Suscipe* by cutting and pasting the link at mercyworld:
<https://www.mercyworld.org/library/the-suscipe-of-catherine-mcauley/>