**Prayers of Intercession**

*Prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, our communities, our nation, and the whole world. These prayers may be lifted up by an individual praying alone, but always in the presence of the communion of saints, or by a small group gathered for worship. You are encouraged include any other petitions that are of particular concern to you or your community.*

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of living water, we pray for people who are sick with Covid-19. We pray for doctors, nurses, and for other medical professionals who are caring for the sick. We pray for people who are working to find a cure or vaccine for this new virus. We pray for people who are especially vulnerable to this disease, people who are elderly, people with suppressed immune systems, and people with other medical conditions. We pray for people who are afraid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we pray for our nation at this time of concern. We pray for national, state, and town leaders, who are charged with making decisions to protect the health and well-being of our communities. Give them wisdom, compassion, and courage as they seek to guide us through this time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we give thanks for and pray for the work of the volunteers at the Ecumenical Food pantry, as they go about their work of feeding the hungry. We thank you for the opportunity that the Food Pantry provides us to come together as people of different denominations and faiths in order help those in need. Be with the pantry volunteers who have committed themselves to meeting people’s nutritional needs during this time of crisis. When so many other places are closed, the food pantry is open, to make sure that the most vulnerable among us have access to the food that they need. Bless their work, which has been made even more challenging by this difficult time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we pray for school superintendents, teachers, and other school staff, as they try to figure out how to educate our communities’ children at a time when it is not safe for them to be in school. We also pray for our towns and school communities as they make plans to feed children who are dependent on school breakfasts and lunches for healthy and adequate food. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we pray for parents who need to figure out how to care for their children while school is out. We pray especially for parents who cannot take time off from work and for parents who cannot find or afford childcare. May the families and children in our communities have the support that they need to make it through this difficult time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we pray for other nations also responding to the coronavirus and working control and contain the virus in their own communities. In responding to a virus that does not recognize national borders, help world leaders make decisions that will protect the health and safety of all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we pray for all of the things we would have been praying for this day, if this virus hadn’t demanded so much of our time and attention. We pray for those on our prayer and concern list. We pray for our planet, especially for the well-being of the waters of the world, the oceans, lakes, rivers, streams that are the lifeblood of the earth and whose health is so intimately bound up with our own. We pray for people who do not have adequate access to clean and drinkable water. We pray for our church community and for all worshiping communities who have made the decision not to meet together on their days of worship. Help us to take care of each other, to uphold and uplift each other, even when we cannot be together in person. We pray for people around the world who suffer from violence in whatever form it might take in their lives. We pray for peace in our world and in our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.