



PASTORAL PRAYER

March 15, 2020

Gracious and Loving God, it is fair to say that most of us feel overwhelmed by the events of recent days – the spread of the coronavirus around the globe with the official acknowledgement that this is a pandemic, the severe stock market decline here in the US and similar markets across the globe,

the uncertainty of how best to prevent the spread of this deadly virus, and the disruption to activities and events which comfort and encourage us and provide us meaning – including for followers of Jesus, weekly congregational worship.

We pray for our world that medical care might reach those already infected, that progress might be made toward a future vaccine, that hospitals in all nations might not be overwhelmed, that the voices of medical experts would be heeded so that steps are taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

We pray for the church that all members of the Body of Christ might embody the peace and love of Christ and take responsible actions in the face of this virus without giving in to feelings of panic.

Allow us in this time of uncertainty to bear certain witness to the depth of your love for us in Christ, as we remember the words of the Apostle Paul, *“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God’s whole created order has any power to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!”* Amen.