

First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa
March 22, 2020 Pastoral Prayer

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to think clearly,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

Here the petitions we make on behalf of our world:

We pray for **world, national, and local leaders**

... that they work together for the common good. We pray that their decisions are wise and prudent serving the welfare of others.

We pray for the **medical and science community**

...As they make decisions and lead us through this pandemic, trying to contain its spread and minimize its impact on the medical support system, grant them wisdom.
...Pray for medical staff and first-responders who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people. May God give them patience, wisdom, and stamina as they offer care and effective treatment and may they be kept safe from catching the virus themselves.
...We pray for researchers, biologists, and medical teams as they work to develop a vaccine.

We pray for the families of the many **people who have died** and for **those undergoing treatment**.

...God bring comfort to the broken-hearted and strengthen those who are suffering physically and emotionally.
...We pray specifically for two of our missionaries who have taken ill on the field where they serve.
...We pray for their health, safety, and well-being. We pray for wisdom for them to know what to do.

We pray for **those who are suffering from significant financial adjustments** due to the economic downturn:

... people whose retirement income depends on the stock market . . . people whose jobs may be cut or their hours reduced . . . people who struggle to work and provide home care for their children

We pray for **our congregation** and the **Church-at-large** throughout the world

... that as Christ followers we would be a calming presence in the face of uncertainty and fear.

... that we would be people of compassion who reach out to others to offer support and practical help that is safe and beneficial.
... that all church leaders would have voices of reason, clarity and grace.
... that as Christ's followers we would be united in encouraging our world to trust you and to put our hope in you.

We pray for **individuals** who are lonely and isolated
...that they would feel comfort in your presence
...that their time of isolation would be a time of building up a relationship with you
...that by your Spirit they would be strengthened and comforted

We pray for **all of us** isolated at home
...grant us resilience, resourcefulness, strength and comfort
...help us to trust you, O Lord
...help us to know that you are with us,
...help us to believe that nothing can separate us
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us, O God,
that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray.

Amen

Rev. Dale Flowers
Rev. Emily Stockert
with portions adapted from Right Rev. Richard Bott,
Moderator of the United Church of Canada