

April 2, 2020 ~Praying for Hope Today, Tomorrow, and in The Future~

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

God of Hope, you lift the heavy burdens of worry and uncertainty from our thoughts. The power of your love lifts fearful burdens from our hearts. You are worthy of our trust in promising never to give us more than we can handle, but you know we've been handling a lot these past weeks. Today another 1,000 lost their lives. Today the number of unemployed people broke records at 11 million. How will we know when this pandemic is "more than we can handle".

When "more than we can handle" feels so close, give us hope for the future.

Gracious God, You've been our solid rock and strongest leaning post. You've always been nearby to lift us up and cheer us up with blessings we haven't deserved. Your grace made it easy to be hopeful, and your goodness and light made our paths lead us to times of goodness. These are not good times, though. There's never been a time in our lives like this; a time when our hopeful spirits wavered toward hopeless thinking. You and all your plans and promises have given us hope in the past, but COVID-19 is a fearful and terrible new trouble. You know our minds can't foresee or imagine what's coming. Our troubled wonderings leave little room for remembering all you've done with us and for us. Help us to remember who you are and what you've done in our lives.

God of Our Past, give us hope for the future.

God of Our Faith, you've given us Your Word. We draw our strength and confidence from the pages of our Bibles. We read of Noah's faith in your guidance to build the ark. We remember Abraham's reliance on your words of promise that gave him hope in the future. More than we ever imagined, our heavy hearts need your true and holy words for wisdom. Our weary bodies need your strength. Our sheltered places isolate us from the world, but not from the encouragement and hope in Your Word. Give each of us a desire to find or renew own faith and reliance on you. As we wait, draw us back into your arms so we see your face and find hope in your promise.

God of Yesterday and Today, give us hope for tomorrow.

Our hope in your plans assures us. It gives us courage and light in our darkest hours. In struggles and suffering, hope never harms us. It endures and grows stronger in us. It opens our eyes to the goodness of people and makes us want to be good to other people. Hope isn't wishful thinking. Hope is putting our trust in you, Father God. No matter how big the problems of tomorrow might seem today, in you I place my hope for the future. In the name of Jesus and hope in His salvation, we pray. Amen.