

April 21,2020 ~Praying for Those Who God is Using to Serve~

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

Gracious God, our prayers begin with thankful praises for the gifts you’ve given all your people living today in this world you created. The gifts you chose for us are not by luck or coincidence, but rather perfectly planned for your purposes throughout our lives. Surely your gifts are being used in ways we never imagined possible, for these times came so quickly and unexpectedly to us. The circumstances of this world are so different from those you’d planned in the world you created for your children in that garden long ago. Surely the gifts you’ve chosen for each of us are exactly what we need to serve others in such a time as this.

Father God, bless all those who serve your people in ministry, even when our churches are closed. We pray for our pastors, priests, preachers, ministers, worship leaders, rabbis, chaplains, and youth pastors. We lift up those who support the clergy: church administrators, organists, video production helpers, Sunday school teachers, maintenance and custodial workers, choir directors, care team leaders, elected church council and board members. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts wisely in glorifying you and loving your people. Protect those who minister to us.

Gracious God, bless all who courageously step out of their safe spaces to wait upon us as clerks, checkers, stockers, cooks, take out workers, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, delivery drivers, gasoline station attendants, laundry and dry cleaning workers, along with family, neighbors, and friends who bring food and medications to those at highest risk of infection. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people, Protect those who wait upon us.

Dependable God, bless all who work to provide services to your people. We pray for the postal workers, firemen, medical transport drivers, all law enforcement officers, utility and internet workers, telephone service workers, those who work in banks, and our military personnel. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people. Protect those who provide daily services to us.

Providing God, bless all who farm the land, raise the livestock, poultry, and fish, harvest the crops, process and package our food, and those who distribute and deliver it to warehouses and retail stores. Be present in factories, workshops, garages, and sewing rooms where personal protective equipment is being produced by volunteers. Place a hedge of protection around truck drivers and railroad personnel on their long hauls. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people. Protect those who produce, process, and deliver the provisions we need.

Merciful God, bless all working as your hands to heal and comfort Covid 19 patients around the clock. Give energy, perseverance, compassion in the hardest circumstances, and wisdom in all choices to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical assistants, therapists, and assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing caregivers. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving

your people. Protect those who are on the front lines battling this virus and those supporting the acute medical and long term facilities.

God of Wisdom, bless all educators preparing and providing virtual learning to their students. Bless the parents who are multitasking doing their daily work and also using the resources educators provide to continue teaching children who cannot go to locked schools. Use higher education teachers to prepare your students enrolled in technical schools, colleges, and universities for future careers. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people. Protect professional and parent educators teaching your children.

Protective God, bless all who are working together to learn more about the novel coronavirus that's spread around the world. Give wisdom and unselfish thinking to elected and appointed American leadership at city, county, state, and federal levels. Remind them that you are the only all powerful leader, and that their leadership must be fair, equally enforced, and not in opposition to the laws that protect Americans. Open the eyes and minds of leading researchers and scientists so they have new understanding of effective medications to treat this pathogen and rapid progress finding safe vaccines that prevent infection in the future. Lead them through testing and evaluations that result in a cure and immunity control. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people. Protect all who lead and those who conduct the research to share their wisdom and cooperation.

Heavenly Father, bless all your people prompted by and listening to your Holy Spirit in sheltered places. Hear their prayers and reveal ways to reach out and check on those sheltered alone. Prompt them to share what they have. Let your light shine in dark places through those who live in your light. Help them protect other people and themselves by following the guidelines. Use the abundance of time shared by families to reinforce strong foundations of unity and love. Encourage cooperation, discussions, and shared prayers. Place in hearts a desire to spend time with you, Lord God. Holy Spirit, guide and direct your servants to use their gifts glorifying you and loving your people. Guide all your sheltered people to look to you for encouragement and ways to be encouragers. Protect your sheltered servants' hearts from fear and their bodies from infection.

Almighty God, we need your intervention and your presence in all places, all people, and all things happening in our restricted and threatened lives right now. Accept our thankful prayers for the blessings and gifts you provide. In Jesus's Name, we ask that all who serve your people would be led by the Spirit in them to continue the work you've given them to do. Amen.