

**March 24, 2020 ~Praying to Stay Connected with Those We Love~**

Dear God, you are with us always, yet there are times we all feel alone and disconnected from others in our lives. Because you know us better than anyone, you have blessed us with very special people to love, people who also love us. Now is one of those times.

You've guided each of our paths to a place of your choosing. It's no coincidence that a church family grows in a certain place at a certain time, not just for a single purpose, but for many purposes. Your plan is to join your people together not only to find you, worship you, and serve you, but to find others, love others, and serve others.

Father God, we never imagined that there'd be a time like this when our common place of meeting, our church building, would be closed to us because it wasn't safe to be together. But here we are now, not in your house, but in our own homes.

We miss the walk up to be greeted. We miss the time of gathering before worship as people who care about each other. We long for the hymns, prayers, liturgy, and our pastor's meditation. It seems so long since we've shared your peace, Lord, in the way we all anticipate and love.

How much we long to stand together remembering you and your sacrifice, Jesus! We can hear in our minds, "The body of Christ, broken for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you."

And then, several weeks ago, Pastor sent us away from our worship with your blessing, your commission, and our thankful affirmation. We wanted to return; even voted to return, but this out of control, viral pandemic is between us and our church home. Thanks be to you, Lord God, that nothing can ever come between us and you.

We pray, Dear God, that we remain close in our hearts, close in our prayers, and united in The Spirit. We ask in Jesus's Name, that we communicate with each other, check on each other, and worship together in our "home church" settings until your power and courageous servants beat down this evil virus. Then we, your church, will come together again, sharing hugs and worshipping you. Amen

