

Prayers of the People
August 30, 2020
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All loving God
We join together today
Seeking respite
Seeking the quenching of our deep soul thirst

In these days of uncertainty, and of ever changing expectations we turn to you, as our source of hope, patience and perseverance

On the cusp of September we bring our teachers to you.
May their classrooms be places of peace, health and joy
Sustain their passion to care for and educate with the storm of additional responsibilities and weight of stress pressing them so fiercely

We also bring you our students
Lord please keep them safe, body, mind and soul
Strengthen their immune systems as flu season adds its fuel to the pandemic fire
Reignite their minds after this long pause from formal schooling
Comfort their souls as they too bare the stress of this unparalleled time

We look around our community, around our world and see suffering and pain.
Job loss, businesses closing, illness, tragedy, hatred, brokenness, injustice, unthinkable brutality
Our hearts break with every click of the mouse and every turn of the newspapers page.
Keep our hearts open to this pain, may they break as yours does so that we may love as you do
We cry out for comfort, for healing and for wisdom.
Mother God who comforts and protects us under her wings.
Draw near to your people.
To all your people of every colour creed and culture.

Our cries for mercy also come when we look in the mirror, when we look at our lives behind closed doors.
Heal our secret wounds. Give us courage to seek help, to get support, to share our story. Give us soul friends to accompany and encourage us. Provide for those needs that no one sees.

Shore up our families. May our patience be divine and our bonds renewed after so many days without a break from each other. Open us to forgive and to receive forgiveness. Please bring your discernment to the many difficult decisions that we must make.

Accompanying God may your spirit enable us to rejoice in hope, to be patient in suffering and to persevere in prayer - so that indeed your kingdom may come -in this world and during this time -as in heaven.

Amen.