

A Call to Prayer

Friends hear this ancient Celtic blessing: “Jesus, rider of donkeys and tender of wounded sheep, lead us to green pastures of healing. (*pause). (page 199, *A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book*)

- Let us hold up to God our intention to pray the world into wholeness and health
- The psalmist declares: “The Lord is my light and salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of what shall I be afraid?”
- Friends in Christ, let us open our lives to God’s healing presence, forsaking all that separates us from God and neighbor. (*pause)
- By your power, Holy God, our Lord Jesus Christ healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. In his name, we pray for those throughout our world who want to be healed. (*pause). Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, mend wounds, tend fears, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. (*pause) Help us to welcome every place of healing as a sign that, you are for us. (*pause). We pray for all who continue to study the movement and patterns of the COVID-19 virus. Enhance their skills, deepen their understanding, sharpen their wisdom, that insight gained may be shared for the hope of the world. Guide nurses, doctors, technicians and assistants as they tend to the growing needs before them. Give them patience and stamina, wisdom and courage that each patient may sense care and concern. Use all these skills, whether tending a microscope, a stethoscope, a blanket or a bedpan, so that those who suffer may be restored to fullness of life. Restore our nation, and the world to health and even joy, for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Space for intercessions (silent or spoken and I will conclude each section with “Lord in your mercy” so you may respond, of course, with “hear our prayer”)

For all who are in need of healing.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who are troubled by confusion, or pain.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who are experiencing anxiety or uncertainty.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who cannot sleep
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who carry the disease and do not know it. That the disease may be arrested by common sense, compassionate acts of community, and your powerful hand.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who continue to work for cures, vaccines, and testing. May their work be deliberate, discerning, and timely.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who serve in hospitals and nursing homes,
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who lead
 In government agencies....
 in communities...

For the church universal and our Flint River congregations, Sessions and pastors that this pandemic may be met with faithfulness, creativity, courage, and calm.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer

For all who believe that our convictions and your power may come together to transform the world into a gentler and more generous space.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of hope, help us by your Holy Spirit to receive your power into our lives and to trust in your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN

Hear these final words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah (chapter 41)

Do not fear, for I am with you,
Do not be afraid, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you; I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Blessing from Romans 15

May the God of hope
Fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
So that you may abound in hope
By the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

Ancient Celtic Charge.

Celtic Blessing

“Jesus your well of love is deep. Let us draw up healing.”

--offered by Rev. Debra Tregaskis with the Flint River saints on March 16 at 7 pm