Prayers

aud

Blessings

for

Healthcare

Workers

Edited by Mandy Mizelle

A Love Song to All the Helpers

There will always be more pain than fits in your arms. There will always be longing, incompleteness.
Let it all be real, and staggering,
And there is also the way that every day
People wake up and walk into
Difficult rooms,
Give care without expecting return,
Believe in a thousand things greater than themselves.
And there is also the way that every day,
People take pain and memory, and let it open them
To more empathy,
To the silence that can just be held.
And there is also you,
And this present moment,
And your reply.

Laura Martin

A Prayer for All during Coronavirus

Creator God, we as a community, as a nation, as a world, are in chaotic, ever-scrambling disarray.

One microscopic virus is completely upending our sense of normalcy, our comfortable, known patterns of behavior, our sense of available daily resources, our ability to interact with closeness and touch without fear.

We are people of faith, social beings called by You to communicate kindness, honesty, faith, hope, and love . . . yet we now have a new rule of six feet of separation from those we earnestly desire to support, to listen to, to advocate for, to journey with.

Walk with us, God, when we reactively retreat into our internal primal fears of becoming infected, of being deprived of survival substances, of being isolated from family and much-needed fellow travelers. Cleanse us, heal us, gift us with gratitude.

Grant us the security of inner centeredness—
seeing beyond the obvious chaos
so that we can be a non-anxious presence
with ourselves,
just as we long to be with our neighbors and world.

Hear our prayer, Creator God. Amen

— Virgil Fry

For the One I Cannot Visit

For the gift of life you have given this your beloved child, we thank you.

For the love with which he is surrounded when we cannot be together, we thank you.

Strengthen and bless those who are caring for him when we cannot.

Bless their families at home.

Bless all of our worry, every fear that enters our hearts, and mold it into trust in you, whatever happens.

When life ends, put all of us in mind of the love that never ends, in the life that encircles and contains this world we love.

We entrust our beloved to you in an embrace that is yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Amen.

— Barbara Crafton