



A Prayer for June 23, 2020

Rev. Dr. Laura Baskett, Chaplain at College Arms Towers and Hugh Ash Manor, DeLand

Holy God, draw us once more into your presence. Still our hearts before you, and enfold us into your care that we might receive your peace.

We give thanks this day, for the gift of life, for the beauty of your world around us, the wonders of your heavens and of human life and love. Help us to see wonders all around us as we go about our day.

We are grateful that you have called us into community, and for those you have brought into our lives: family, fellow residents, staff, friends, even strangers. Give us your guidance and your grace as we live together, especially in times of stress.

We remember those who first taught us about life, about love, about you; those who helped us make sense out of life, and helped us to trust and to give. As we remember these past blessings, may we become more able to see the blessings and gifts which are still put before us through a kind word, a helpful neighbor, a new opportunity, the discovery of something we know or can do that can be shared.

In this time of so much change, we give thanks for the things that remain constant: for your love and faithfulness, the rhythm of the seasons, the smell of new-mown grass, the songs of birds. We're grateful for daily routines like starting the day off with coffee, doing our daily chores, taking the dog for a walk, feeding the cat. We thank you that we can still watch our favorite shows, take time for prayer and reflection, reach out to those we love or hear from them, lose ourselves in a book. Ground us in these things and in your word that through them we might know the steadfastness of your presence.

We pray for ourselves and for those we love. For neighbors and friends, staff and residents, family and friends. Let us also pray for others. Hear our prayers for the first responders who are always so helpful when we need help, yet who put their lives and safety in danger at times, especially during the continued spread of the virus. We pray, too, for health care workers and other essential workers, for their safety and health. Guide those in positions of leadership to navigate the multitude needs and issues created and exposed by this crisis in ways that honor and support the life and wellbeing of all. Comfort and sustain those out of work, the poor, the ill, the lonely, those who mourn and those separated from loved ones by this virus. Come to all your children in their need.

Hear now the prayers of our hearts. *(Give time for silent prayer.)*

God, you are “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved and the mountains shake in the depths of the sea.” (Psalm 46)
May your peace attend us as we go forth this and every day.

Amen.