



A Prayer for April 14, 2020

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Almighty God,

Today we pray, acknowledging the immensity of the crisis before us, acknowledging the many difficulties we face, while remembering that you are the Almighty God of all Creation who is calling us to work together and pray together until we all get through this crisis. We hold before you...front line healthcare workers all over the nation who find themselves in extremely challenging situations – including the shortages of desperately needed protective equipment. We pray for medical staff working in conditions once thought unthinkable...until now. We pray for those put in positions to make medical decisions that they should never have to make. We pray for those tending to the multitudes of sick, recycling their own masks, who are concerned for their own safety, and their family's safety. Thank you so much that our Westminster *residents* have worked hard to sew and make masks for us to use every day! You have united us spirit, and in love. We especially pray for the multitudes who are afflicted, who are suffering greatly right now. We call out to you! We are ALL very concerned. Nevertheless, thanks be to God, we do not have to feel hopeless!

Thank you that whatever transpires in our life, regardless of how it plays out, you have given us gifts that can never be destroyed...gifts of Faith, Hope, and Love. They are gifts for our *spirit*. Lord, regardless of the unfolding scene, these gifts

have the capacity to become unspeakably powerful, and they can grow most powerful in the pressures of crisis...and we ask you for exactly that. Lord, we know that desperate times can bring out the best, or the worst, in people. Stir up our hearts, O God, and bring out the best. Help us to rise to the occasion. Help us to work together in new ways.

See our exhaustion... Give us needed rest and give us new strength to go the "extra mile." Glorify your Name through this time of great trial, and through your people. We acknowledge that we will never know what is in us until our comfort zones, our dependencies, and our souls are broken. We acknowledge that our nation, our health care system, and even our own lives...are broken. *But, You are with us.* Help us to rise! Fill us with the power of *Faith*, the power of *Hope*, and most especially the power of *Love*, through all of this.

Cause our hearts to hear your words, spoken to Joshua, "*Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God is with you every step you take.*" (Jos1:9 MSG) We receive your strength, Lord. Help us to grab moments of joy along the way too, for we know you see our sacrifices, and that you are the Rewarder.

Amen.