



A Prayer for June 30, 2020

Rev. Leslie McCarrick, Chaplain at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, Jacksonville

Christian artist, Michael W. Smith, wrote a song entitled “How Majestic is Your Name.” If you don’t know it, have a peek on YouTube. I can practically guarantee the words and the melody will stick in your mind as they have for me in this week as I think about our current situation with the coronavirus.

Let us pray:

Oh, Creator God we look out upon your world and marvel at your design. Like King David, our hearts sing, “Oh, Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.” (Psalm 8:1). Psalm 8 continues to remind us that we human beings are rather small when we look up at the sky and gaze across the sea; see the mighty mountains, the flower studded meadows and cool, dark forests. And yet, God has created us to be the ones called to care for all the earth.

Verse 8 tells us that “You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.” May we not be so foolish as to think that you, God, give us permission to do whatever we like to your world. You call us to be caretakers; caretakers to everything that has breath and to all that grows. As we think about the psalm on Earth Day which will fall tomorrow, help us to be aware of all that you call us to do in service to you. We care for your earth. And we care for one another. Never has that been more important than in these days.

The coronavirus has turned our world upside down, LORD. We find ourselves unsure of what to do and sometimes, who to believe. We are drowning in disheartening news from all fronts. Everywhere we turn, yet one more person is announcing one more activity that we can no longer

participate in and our patience is running thin. We ache for overworked healthcare professionals and small business owners. We lament canceled weddings and funerals, concerts and sporting events. We are lonely and anxious and sad. We miss the physical presence of family and friends. Yet, is not the one who created all the glory around us still in charge? Does God not tell us that he will be with us always? Where is our hope?

The Apostle Paul said, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:12-13). May this be our heartfelt prayer, O God: that we can do all things in you who gives us strength. Strengthen our courage, our hope, and our love. For you are the one in control and you will see us through. "Oh, Lord, Our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

AMEN.