



A Prayer for June 16, 2020

Rev. Jeff Parkkila, M.Div., BCC Chaplain at Westminster Winter Park

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the Earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and Foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the Earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the Earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the Earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the Earth.” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

— *Psalm 46*

Let us pray together:

Eternal God, the Psalmist today reminds us of your abundance of love, grace, mercy and compassionate presence throughout a tumultuous time. Inasmuch you were present throughout the Exile of the Hebrews in Babylon, we learn in the Scriptures that they experienced isolation, death, sorrow, uncertainty, fear and worry of the unknown. But you o God, were faithful and never forsook them!

The exile we currently face is about our own protection from this silent killer that holds all captive. And so God, we too are very much afraid. Like you were present with them, please

continue to be present with all humankind. Make your presence known to those who become most vulnerable and are facing ill health and death.

For those who have lost their jobs and face financial uncertainty, may they find deliverance and hope through you. We humbly ask your wisdom, guidance and blessings be upon the efforts of all who are racing for a cure and therapies to help people from this deadly contagion that threatens humanity.

May the leaders of this World put all differences aside and join in unity for the sake of all humankind and may your Word of Wisdom command and humble their hearts and make their actions just and compassionate.

For those medical personnel throughout all the World, we humbly ask your blessing and protection to be upon them; provide them with the necessary equipment to protect not only their patients but themselves from all harm; and O God, may people and businesses be so moved to create the medical equipment and materials to equip the Medical Community in providing care for all who are in need.

For those who are most vulnerable, children, unborn, mothers, the elderly and those who have compromised health, please surround them with your healing hand of protection and empower all of humanity to do likewise regardless of personal cost.

And finally Dear Lord for we the People of Westminster, we thank you for your abiding presence for over 50 years. We thank you for your countless mercy, provision and grace as we entrust our residents, staff and entire communities to your love and protection.

In this moment, may we be still and know You are God! May Your Name be exalted throughout all!

It is in Your Holy Name we humbly ask. AMEN.