



A Prayer for March 23, 2021

By Rev. Jeffrey A. Parkkila, Sr., Chaplain, Westminster Winter Park

Gracious and Eternal God,

We are mindful that when the Lord said to Moses ***“I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments; and I will take you to Me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”***¹ that lives would forever be changed through Your mighty hand.

Many years later, two peoples of Faith, Jewish and Christian, both belonging to the House of Abraham, still join in their respective Houses of Worship to commemorate Your hand of deliverance from the bondage of the slavery of sin and oppression both have experienced throughout life. Inasmuch as the miracle of parting the Red Sea set forth a path of deliverance for the Jewish People, may Your Hand likewise part the Sea of Pain and Suffering expressed throughout this pandemic. And through the experience of the Christian, may the miracle of the Resurrection of Jesus reinforce a time of hope and light throughout the shades of darkness found in human suffering.

As both Peoples gather with their families in their Houses of Worship, to celebrate the Jewish Holy Seder or the Christian Lord’s Supper, both expressed in the unleavened

¹ Exodus 6:6-7 JPS Tanakh 1917

bread and fruit of the vine, may both Peoples be raised anew in a spirit of grace and restoration only You, O God, can bring.

As Christians and Jews gather to express their faith, to seek your guidance and deliverance from personal sin and the sin of this World, may all grow in unity and love for You and their neighbor. As you delivered both in the past, we ask that you continue to offer the same deliverance and hope to all this day. And especially, O God, may Your Face continue to shine upon us all as we seek deliverance from the bondage of this pandemic in a greater hope for the unity of all Humankind.

And so, just as your Servant David once proclaimed, ***“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me and your rod and your staff they comfort me”***² may we find strength and hope in You for ***“Surely your goodness and love will follow [us] all the days of [our lives], and [we] will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”***³

AMEN.

² Psalm 23: 4 NIV

³ Psalm 23: 6 NIV.