

## **Prayers in the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Mystery beyond mysteries,  
Eternal Spirit saturating creation,  
Presence sustaining all things,  
we thank You  
for the beauty of nature,  
the rich colours of the changing seasons,  
the rhythmic cycle of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter,  
of birth, flourishing, maturation, and death,  
of life renewed, and renewed again.

We give thanks, O God,  
for the spiritual traditions of Scotland  
which have nurtured us,  
led us on a path of discovery, pilgrimage and renewal,  
of encounter with Christ, the Living Christ,  
around us, alive in our communities and  
deep in the soul's silent centre.  
We crave the solace only Scripture can give, and  
the ethereal essence of our sacred buildings:  
homes of wholeness  
with walls imbued by the prayers of generations,  
saints who, in faith, wrestled with hardships and trials.

In these troubled times  
of virus and economic stress,  
of communities and families under strain,  
relationships fractured,  
individuals fearful, bewildered, burdened with loss,  
mental distress, loneliness or anxiety;  
bless us with openness,  
that we may do all that we can  
to support, care and nourish others.

You know the burdens we carry,  
the concerns and memories of love,

our tears shed,  
haunting recollections of hands not held,  
smiles of warmth masked and hidden,  
absent at last goodbyes.  
Grant us Your peace, the sacred shalom only You can give.  
Walking in the park or along the beach,  
sitting at home, in the night and in the day,  
may we know Your Presence with us,  
Your tender embrace and healing touch.

Bless our leaders with insight, courage,  
statecraft, compassion, and wisdom,  
that they may be filled with a spirit of kindness and cooperation,  
and inspired by a vision of our shared humanity.

Uphold and strengthen those gifted and burdened  
with the task of caring for the sick and dying,  
in hospital, hospice and care home.  
Divine Healer,  
Spirit Sublime infusing every cell,  
guide medical scientists around the globe  
in their patient, methodical search for a vaccine;  
may their tireless endeavours, their microscopic analysis,  
yield protection, immunity and the therapy of hope.

Holy God,  
mindful of our loved ones departed,  
assure them of our continuing affection.  
We give thanks for the many and varied ways  
their lives shaped and still shape our living.  
We look forward to the day when we too  
will be reborn and renewed in life beyond this life.