

*Holy One, listen to your people praying as we ask you send your Spirit to our places:*

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.*

*Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.*

*Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.*

*Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.*

*Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.*

*Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.*

*Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.*

*Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace and feel our support.*

*And thinking of people at Central City Lodge and any other long-term care facility:*

*Be with those who care for and with us, as valued aids or assistants -- as we worry about their fair working wages and safe working conditions and especially elsewhere where workers do not have union protections and rights.*

*Be with those who, as a whole, administer this Lodge and its sister places in the urban core as Cooper Place, and for a shareable future as well as now, in the midst of this virus threat.*

*Be with those whose cleaning duties help keep us safe and confident that we live in a mutually caring facility that indeed, we call our home, our lodge - and also with our extended family and circles of friends elsewhere that in this unusual and anxious time of separation that they too feel our prayerful inclusion of them even while being cut off from us.*

*Be with recreational staff and supporters, music therapists, and those behind the scenes whose creativity and humour enrich communal life.*

*Be with any accompanying recovery programs and people as they address vicious addictions, that they too feel our concern and prayers for life beyond addiction.*

*Be with long-term care volunteers who are now cut off from visiting and offering gifts of time, fresh energy, and personal interest; may they, too, feel cared for.*

*Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.*

*Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness, only a few, or not yet anyone, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare, and dare to hope.*

*In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.*

*But, right now, we need you to be with us; we need to feel your presence; we need to hear your Spirit calling to our spirits; we need to know that the darkness is not dark to you.*

*In faith, in hope, in longing, we offer our prayers.*

*We thus pray for the people who sit alone waiting for a phone call or an email or Facebook message or a wave from the neighbour across the street.*

*May they not wait in vain.*

*Lord listen to your people praying:*

*give us love, give us power, give us grace*

*Let is Be (Amen).*

**adapted from Kerry Weber, an executive editor of *America* and added to by: Barry Morris, United Church of Canada minister & a long-term care chaplain and Bruce Alexander, Social Psychology Professor Emeritus SFU.**