

## Congregational Prayer for March 15, 2020

*You are encouraged to use this prayer during a time of personal and/or family devotions. While we are unable to gather together physically, we trust that we are still united together as one body who shares one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:5-6). As you pray these words, aloud or silent, know that others are praying them with you.*

Heavenly Father,

Much in our world is uncertain right now, but you are always faithful. We thank you and praise you that, despite the concerns and questions and anxiety we may have, we can trust that you are still with us and that you are on your throne.

We are mindful of the needs beyond our own community and we pray for those who are impacted by Coronavirus. For those who are sick or and for those who are worried about those who are sick. We pray for wisdom for our local, state, national, and world leaders who are making decisions about how to respond to this health crisis. We pray for the healthcare workers who are on the front lines. Give them strength for long hours and keep them healthy as they tend to the health of others.

Yet even as so much of our world shuts down, we are reminded of the needs within our own Westend Church family. We pray for Jeff Hawkins and his family as Jeff's dad undergoes surgery on a rare form of cancer and for Norah, Floyd and Nancy's granddaughter, as she has surgery on her eyes this week. Guide the doctors, we pray, and grant that the surgeries would go well. We pray for those in our church who are battling cancer and facing ongoing chemotherapy. Give them strength and protect them as their immunity is compromised. We pray for families who are trying to make ends meet while their work is disrupted and for parents who are trying to find adequate childcare with schools closed. We bring our own prayers for those we love before you. *(Please pray for other needs in your family or friends.)*

In all things, may we be led by your Holy Spirit, God. We pray that our lives would reflect your grace and mercy. May the way we respond in this time point others to our hope in Jesus Christ and the ways that his love transforms us. Give wisdom to our church staff and other leaders as they make decisions in the weeks to come. In all things, may your name be honored and glorified through our lives as individuals and our life together as a church.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.