

A Prayer

Dear Lord,
The world is united in a way we have not been, but it is the tragic unity of a pandemic.
We are sharing a common experience, though the inequalities of our local circumstances shape the gravity of each individual's situation differently.
We are only aware of a very small percentage of the other issues that our world neighbors face.

We have only an inkling of the things that affect the lives of many of our neighbors here at home every day, though recent events are shedding new light on some of them. It is hard for us to put ourselves in someone else's shoes and see the world through their eyes when we are so caught up in our own issues and struggles.
Just now, we have choices to make – about who should lead this country; about what the country will look like and stand for going forward; about what direction we will go and what role we will play in the world; about what the future world will look like, perhaps even about its ability to sustain life itself.

Give us wisdom to see beyond today;
beyond what we want and are used to,
beyond our narrow vision of what 'should' be -
because we see only us, forget that we are part of a much larger world community.
Help us have the courage to look for what it would be like if we valued others as highly as we do ourselves – as Jesus taught.

Help us to call upon our leaders to understand that we are not alone on this planet; that we do not have the right to seek only our own goals and comfort; that the rest of the world is not there for our benefit – for our use; or to be bent to our will.

Righteous leaders are servants.
They do not seek power for power's sake.
They have strong convictions, yet open minds, and know who they are.
They seek new ideas and new possibilities.
They are willing and able to learn, ask questions, and seek help from those with skills and knowledge they do not possess themselves.
They know they are not perfect and cannot lead alone.

Help us pray for all who would lead.
Help us pray as we chose.
Help us choose wisely.

Amen

For this week's prayer time:

The **U.S. still leads the world in the number of COVID-19 cases** and deaths. The number of cases is still growing in much of the U.S. The month's 90% rise in cases in children continues – some are gravely ill; some have died. Opening schools is already coming with COVID-19 outbreaks. Pray for the sick and separated; those at risk of the virus; caregivers; those responsible for the safety of others, especially those making decisions about children.



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