



Diocese of Easton

COVID-19 Pastoral Response Protocol (CPRP)

A Call to Common Prayer Time

For some inexplicable reason that shall remain beyond my finite human capacity to comprehend or offer some compelling explanation, humanity is designed to reach out to a phenomenon beyond itself for some type of reasonable assurance that all will be well. It is in times such as we are presently living in that this curiosity becomes more pronounced than any other time.

The Christian tradition points to the act of PRAYER for one of the answers - a providential strategy that inspires and sustains. It does so modeling Jesus our Savior, who throughout his life on earth practiced prayer as a personal discipline and taught his disciples to emulate his pattern.

John Chrysostom (407), the early church father who gave us the prayer we pray during Morning and Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer (102 & 126), wrote "prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart. I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift given to us only by God's grace. The apostle Paul says: 'we do not know how we are to pray but the Spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings'."

We are, unfortunately, in a season of grave uncertainty, understandable fear and irrepressible apprehension. A time when we without any doubt or

exception are called to prayer - to pray unceasingly, regularly, unconditionally, collectively and privately. We are called to summon the collective will, our deepest emotions and spiritual energy as the early church demonstrated in the Acts of the Apostle during the era of widespread persecution against Jesus's followers (Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47). We are obligated spiritually and morally to the holy act of praying for our nation, world, church family, loved ones, neighbors known and unknown and everyone in between.

Under this 'cloud of darkness' *must* emerge the 'cloud of witnesses' described in beautiful poetic and apocalyptic majesty in the Book of Revelations.

The Diocese of Easton joins with the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Justin Welby and the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry in summoning our community of faith to gather in their sacred space to pray the Lord's Prayer at 12:00 noon. The Diocese of Easton whose identity is that of a *Prayer Centered Church and Mission – Shaped Diocese* invites the family to go a step further when we pray the Noonday Prayer (BCP 103). We shall begin with the Lord's Prayer and continue with the other responses in the Noonday Prayer.

The Order of Service with appropriate adaptations is attached to be downloaded and shared in whichever medium you feel comfortable to distribute to the wider community. [Click Here for Order of Service Link.](#)

Let's pause a moment to pray for the world, nation, health care workers, financial, employment and business sectors, unemployed with financial obligations and family to support, church leaders and lay members, national, state and local leaders and all God's people including every other sector of our common life. *May God bless and sanctify our holy time!*

Together in Christ's service,

+San