

Invocation written for the Commissioners Court

Holy one of love and justice, of music and laughter; of silence and tears, we pray for the people of the world this day, people who are hurting and struggling in the midst of this global pandemic. We pray for the people of our county and for the Commissioners and our County Judge. We pray for wisdom, stamina and compassion for all our leaders and we pray for help, encouragement, and lasting improvements for the people of our county who are struggling.

We ask you, Holy one, to be our shepherd. Walk with us through this valley of sickness and death, of frustration and fatigue, of overwhelm and awe. Remind us that we can be faithful and frightened. Help us to be honest with you. Help us to be honest with ourselves and each other - to reach out to you and to each other when we need to connect. Help us to see the holy, the sacred in these days. Give us the courage and strength we need to focus on love, to find new ways to work for justice and peace, to meet the onslaught of these challenges.

We pray this day for our world, for our country, for our county, for our communities, for ourselves. We pray for those who are ill, we pray for those who grieve, we pray for our healthcare workers, our grocery store workers, our now unemployed workers, and all those who are working to keep the lights coming on, the water clean, the roads ready; we pray for the sanitation workers and the mail carriers, the farmers and ranchers, the veterinarians. We pray for teachers and students adjusting to so many changes. We pray for those alone at home, for those who feel isolated. We pray for the relationships of those at home together: we pray for patience, for empathy, for kindness and calm. We pray for those whose savings are disappearing, those whose jobs are now unstable. We pray for those who had no savings, who were already barely making it and now don't know what to do. We pray for ourselves and each other as businesses begin to reopen. We pray that we will care for each other by wearing masks, by making decisions with the health of our most vulnerable neighbors at the forefront of our minds, we pray for wise and kind and just decisions from our government leaders.

We are grateful, holy one, for scientists and medical professionals whose expertise guides leaders in making decisions that impact so many lives. We pray, especially today, for everyone in the care of these leaders: for librarians, those who are in our jails, the workers repairing our roads and bridges, everyone needing our courthouses and using our parks, and all the people of Harris County. We pray for safety, for strength, for empathy, for creativity, and for calm and careful decision making.

We are separated physically but there is a spirit that unites us, a spirit that will guide and encourage each of us. These days have taught us that even while we need to physically stay apart, we can come together to care for our community. We pray that we will all continue to seek justice, compassion, health, and peace for everyone.

Be our shepherd. Lead us in paths of peace.

Amen

by Laura Mayo