

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**April 5, 2020**

God of Love, your Son lived your love by healing people and by granting abundant life. We pray this day especially for the healing of those who are battling COVID-19—healing through EMT's and doctors and nurses and through medicines and other vessels of your healing and wholeness.

And we pray for our EMT's and medical providers and hospital chaplains and others on the front lines in this battle. Lord of Life, as more people become sick, these front-line warriors are working more hours with less supplies and with more risk of infection themselves. Protect them we pray.

God our Fortress, we also ask you to protect grocery store and pharmacy workers and delivery drivers and all who are working so we have what we need. And guard those most vulnerable to this virus—the elderly and people with other health conditions. Comfort them with your Spirit, the one you called the Comforter, in this time of uncertainty and as many of them self-isolate from loved ones.

By your Spirit, inspire and encourage and lead the scientists and researchers and companies who have rolled up their sleeves and are hard at work to develop better tests to diagnose this virus and to identify existing medicines to treat it and to create vaccines to prevent it.

Guide our leaders, including our own mayor, town council, and sheriff. Give our leaders wisdom as they decide how best to address this public health crisis and as they work for the common good of their communities. Help them communicate compassionately, truthfully, and calmly.

God our Strength, we pray for our adjustment to this “new normal.” Give us a double portion of patience and kindness and flexibility and grace at this unnerving and trying hour. Renew worn-out parents and comfort children missing friends and old routines. Help us be good to ourselves so we're able to cope in this crisis.

God our Provider, provide for everyone who's lost their job or fears losing it or who doesn't know how they'll pay the bills. Even as you have in the past, open doors to assistance and hope through churches, the government, family, or local charities like Deep Well here on Hilton Head.

Almighty God, we know that “though this wrong seems often so strong, you are the ruler yet.” So we pray for an end to this scourge. We're committed to helping end it through social distancing and other practices. By your Spirit, help us not to fear but to put our trust in you, for you are with us. We pray all of this in the strong name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”