

Poem during Covid 19 by Brother Richard (Richard Hendrick- March 13, 2020)

Adapted to be a prayer for us, the church, today... Let us pray...

Gracious, Loving, Faithful, Eternal God... **A: Hear our prayer...**

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But, They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise... You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes... But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today, young women and young men, are doing their part to help by spreading fliers with a phone number through the neighborhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today churches, synagogues, mosques and temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are. To how little control we really have.

To what really matters. To love.

So we pray and we remember that Yes there is fear.... But there does not need to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.... But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.... But there does not need to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.... But there does not have to be sickness of the soul.

Yes there is even death.... But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Gracious, loving, faithful, Eternal God...

Help us wake to the choices we make as to how to live now.

Help us today, to breathe.

Help us to listen, behind the factory noises of our panic

For the birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming.

Thank you God, for always encompassing us by your love.

Thank you God, for being willing and able to lead us out of our darkness.

Gracious, loving, faithful, Eternal God...

Open the windows of our souls

And though we may not be able to touch across the empty square, help us Sing."

Gracious, loving, faithful, Eternal God... **A: Hear our prayers. Amen.**