Monday, March 23, 2020, 4 p.m. Prayer Service

**Opening Song:** Beyond the Days BB#126 verses 1& 2

**Opening Prayer:**

Lord, God of peace, we bless you and we thank you because you have sent us your Son, Jesus. Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, during this time on our journey. Remember all who are in pain, who suffer and die during this pandemic. For the people of every race, of every tongue, may your kingdom come—your kingdom of justice, of peace, of love. And may the Earth be filled with your glory. Amen

**Reflection:** A Prayer Amid an Epidemic by Kerry Weber (America Magazine)

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At you command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now. In the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give
them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on Earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ heal us.

**Silent Reflection:**

**Closing Prayer:**

Loving God, the refuge of all your children, in our weakness, you are our strength; in our darkness, you are our lights; in our sorrow; you are our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence and serve you in our daily lives. Amen

**Closing Song:** Beyond The Days BB#126 verses 3 & 4