March 17, 2020 Prayer Service

**Opening Prayer: - by Melannie Svoboda, SND**

During Lent, we often choose our sacrifices. But this year, our sacrifices have chosen us—in the form of the coronavirus...Let us offer this short prayer;

Creator God, be with us during this world-wide health crisis. Help us to do what we have to do to curb the spread of this virus. Bless our health care professionals, our researchers, our community and government leaders. Bless those already infected with this illness. We pray too for those who have died and for their loved ones. Help us to embrace the personal hardships this pandemic may lay upon us. May we, as a world community, work together, putting aside all selfishness, feelings of superiority, and divisiveness. Keep always before us the great truth that this pandemic underscores: we are all part of One Earth Community no matter who we are or where we live. Amen

**Prayer for a Pandemic**

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen

**Quiet Reflection:**

**Closing song: Sing refrain three times:**
We need each other
We need each other
We need each other
As we journey with our God