**2 Chronicles 20:6, 12-13**

**6 "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. …12 For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." 13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord. NIV**

**\*A PRAYER FOR WHEN YOU FEEL HOPELESS, Sue Nickel**

O Holy One,   
    these days I come and stand before You in all sorts of ways:  
    restless, silent, weeping, yelling … very hopeless.    
However I am—and changing as I do—  
    what matters most is that you are steadfast and sure.  
    You are all around me and, for this,   
    I am very grateful.  
You are the Sovereign One, Healer, Sin-Forgiver,  
     Sight-Restorer, and Lord over all powers.  
Yet despite this, you came to the world as the Infant One.  
    As such, I want to come humbly before you,  
    whisper my fears and speak my COVID-19 anxieties   
    to the One who knows all suffering.   
                **O source of perfect comfort,**  
**give me Christ-Courage for these days.**  
Immortal, invisible, all wise God,  
    you give to all of life both great and small,  
    and in all of life you live,   
    you who are Life itself.   
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
     almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise!  **AMEN**

**\*A PRAYER FOR THOSE LONGING FOR LIFE TO RETURN TO NORMAL, Isabel Ong**

The streets lie empty;   
our cities appear deserted,  
and our church buildings are shuttered.  
But You see our silent tears.  
You weep alongside us as we long for normalcy  
and freedom from this palpable fear and anxiety.    
**Jesus, be near to us.**  
  
This virus does not discriminate  
between young or old, healthy or sick.  
But we take comfort that Your love and peace  
does not either,  
and that You are close to anyone  
who calls upon Your name.  
**Jesus, be near to us.**  
  
The walls of our homes feel constricting as  
day after weary day goes by.  
Our eyes grow dim and dull with  
too much screen time, too much news,  
too much everything.  
But we close our eyes, now, and invite You in again:  
**Jesus, be near to us.  
Come, Lord Jesus – be near to us.**

**\*A PRAYER FOR GRIEF, Leslie Roberts**

O Lord, who hears our cries,  
   who is never deaf to our weeping,  
   nor blind to our tears:  
We come to you with many griefs,  
   sorrow laid heavy on our hearts:

for loved ones who are ill or isolated in uncertainty  
for those trapped in abusive homes  
for livelihoods that have disappeared  
for friends and family we cannot be near  
for goodbyes said at two meter’s distance  
for wedding plans suddenly overturned  
for funerals we cannot attend  
for graduation stages uncrossed  
for the loneliness we feel

*A time of silence for lament of these things and others*

Surely you have borne our griefs  
   and carried our sorrows  
   our fears and our anxieties  
   are not alien to you.

Lord, in our brokenness and our lament is your presence;  
in the midst of our fear is your peace.  
You, our ever-present help in trouble, are here.

For as long as this season shall last,  
you will not leave us or forsake us.  
You, O Lord, are our Rock.  
Your still, small voice our refuge.

In the unknown waves of this storm, still you anchor us.  
In the roar of the tempest, still you sing to us.   
In the midst of our grief, may we know you still more closely.  
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

\*Prayers are from:

<https://www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org/2020/03/26/prayers-for-this-season/>