

## Prayers During a Time of Crisis<sup>4</sup>

### Opening:

We come to you in the morning, Creator,

**in our need and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to you in the noontime, Saviour,

**for you have walked with us the road of this world's suffering.**

We come to you in the evening, Comforter,

**for you have promised never to turn us away.**

### PSALM: Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?

My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
"Where is your God?"

These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise the Lord,  
my help and my God.

*(if time permits, Mark 5.24b-34 can be read here)*

### Prayers:

Creator God,  
you made us in love  
to live in peace with your creation.

In these days of catastrophe and uncertainty,  
when all of creation seems to be  
shifting under our feet,  
we pray that your vision of peace,  
might call us forward to seek peace  
for the earth and all creatures with whom  
we share our creational home.

*spoken or silent prayers for the earth and all living things*

As the deer longs for the flowing streams,

**so we long for your healing, O God.**

Saviour, who walks with the wounded  
along the road of our world's suffering,  
you created us for abundance and welcome.  
In these days of loss,  
as covid cases rise once again  
and cold and snow blanket our cities,  
we pray for those who do not have access,  
to food, medicine and shelter,  
let your generosity and compassion so live in us  
that we might see how to meet the needs  
of those who are suffering  
from hunger, homelessness, or poverty.

*spoken or silent prayers for those suffering from deprivation due to disaster*

As the deer longs for the flowing streams,

**so we long for your healing, O God.**

Comforter who moves among us and makes us one,  
you created us for community and love.  
In the midst of the isolation created by covid,  
and the isolation created by cold and snow,  
let your comforting Spirit so live in us  
that we might feel surrounded by your love,  
and the love of your people,  
even when we are alone.  
Enable us to creatively reach out  
to those in need:  
those who have lost homes and livelihood  
and loved ones due to Covid,  
the lonely,  
those who have no place to call home,  
those who are excluded due to ethnicity,

gender identification,  
sexual orientation or disability,  
and those who live on the margins of our churches.  
Help us to see those who are reaching  
for the hem of your garment.

*spoken or silent prayers for those suffering from loneliness, isolation and exclusion*

As the deer longs for the flowing streams,

**so we long for your healing, O God.**

Spirit of the nations,  
who calls all people to lives of justice and peace,  
you created all the peoples of the world  
to reflect your wonderful diversity.  
We pray for our leaders,  
that they may have the wisdom  
to discern a path of care  
for the most vulnerable in our midst.  
And we pray for those working  
beyond their capacity  
to provide care and healing  
to those who are ill,  
those caring for neighbours,  
and those offering comfort to the grieving,  
that they may have wisdom, compassion  
and strength for their work.

*spoken or silent prayers for those on the front-lines during this crisis*

As the deer longs for the flowing streams,

**so we long for your healing, O God.**

Lord, we long to touch the hem of your garment

**for only you can make us whole. Amen.**

*<sup>4</sup> Opening sentences are from the Iona Community; the prayers were written by Sylvia Keesmaat. Feel free to use them with attribution*