

Joyce Meyer: “The key to our strength and success in all areas of life is spending time with God. Be sure that you never try to work God into your schedule, always work your schedule around God.”

O Lord, it is so good to just be in your presence today. To get away from the headlines, to get away from posts on social media, to get away from the fear and anxiety that is pervading our society right now. And to just be still and know that you are indeed our God. As the psalmist says, “O Lord, who is as mighty as you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours, the world and all that is in it – you have founded them. Strong is your hand, and righteousness and justice are your foundation. Happy are those who walk in the light of your countenance.” And we come to be in the light of your countenance. For it is in your light that we see hope, we feel the warmth of your love, we are given new strength, and we know that it is in you and you alone we must trust, and not fear. But Lord, it can be easy to be overwhelmed with the voices of the world. It can feel oppressive and confining. That’s why we need more than ever to make time for you – to talk to you, to listen to you, to learn more about you and your ways, so that we can find the peace, the assurance, the comfort we so desperately need at this time. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God, and all things we need will be given to us.” And so help us in this new era, as we learn to readjust our schedules and time, that we make you a priority, and work everything else around time with you.

Lord, we pray for others this day. Not only those on our prayer list, but we pray for others. Particularly our medical personnel, first responders, medical researchers who are on the front line of the coronavirus. Those working around the clock, those putting their own lives in danger for the safety and protection of our citizens. We pray for those with the virus, for their healing, for those who have lost loved ones to it, for their comfort, and for those who are waiting for test results. We pray for those who are mentally fragile, or who fight addiction, that you would give them your power to stay strong, to stay sober, to have hope. We pray that we all might have patience, that we would be flexible and that we would live as Christians who love and treat others as we love and would treat ourselves. There are other specific people we wish to pray for. And so I pause, that others may lift up names and offer to you their own personal prayers.

Lord, we find comfort in the familiarity of our songs and prayers, and so we hear now as Diane sings for us the Lord’s Prayer.