

King David Psalm 13. He is running from those who are literally trying to kill him: “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long shall my enemy have the upper hand?”

O Lord, we come to you this day, grateful for this time of worship. Grateful to turn our thoughts to something other than the news, or another television series or even another complaint that too often wants to form in our mind. We are grateful, Lord for you in our lives. To be able to put our trust in you. To rely on your strength and peace that helps get us through these difficult times. And yet, Lord, the gray and dreary of this day seems too often to mirror our souls. We feel gloomy on the inside, and we too want to cry out, “How long O Lord? How long will this go on? Will COVID–19 have the upper hand forever?” For we are getting tired, Lord. We want to go back to our daily routines. We want to go back to “normal.” But we can’t. At least for awhile. And the normal we knew may not be the normal we come to know. And so help us accept what we cannot change. And, Lord, help us to look inside ourselves and see what we can change – about our attitudes, our behaviors. When we become agitated or bothered, help us look deep within and discover the cause – could it just be selfishness, because we are not getting what we want? When we begin to worry – could it be that we are letting others dictate what we think, rather than looking to you to give us wisdom and discernment? When we complain that we can’t do what we want – could it be that we are not satisfied with what we have? Yes, Lord, maybe this is a time for us to change what we can – ourselves. And in that way, we will be saved from our enemy. In that way, we can also say with David, as he ended this psalm, “I will trust in your steadfast love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because his is good to me.”

Lord, in our prayers, we continue to pray for those who feel like the enemy is winning. For those who are sick, who are grieving. For students who can’t go back to school, and who bear the pain of change and uncertainty differently, for they have less experience and life understanding. For those working to heal, to combat, to minimize the effects of this virus. And for those who are tasked with making decisions that affect the lives of all of us. Throughout the world. We trust that our prayers matter, O God. And so we pray.

And there are others...

And now O Lord, we have gathered as we can – a virtual church, yes, but still a church. And so I pray our John Wesley Prayer:

*Dear Lord, we want John Wesley to be a strong and vital church in our community. And we want to be guided by your vision and plan for us. As we move into the future, please lead us all in our thoughts, our*

*discussions, and our decisions. Show us what you would have us do and how you would have us do it. And help us always remember that John Wesley is your church, not ours – may your will be done. In Christ's name we pray. Amen*