

LEAP
(Leave Everything And Pray)
Wednesday 1 April at 7 pm.
Next LEAP 6 May 2020, 7 pm.

Friends, I cannot emphasise more the need of gathering ourselves in spirit to pray in this unprecedented time when corona virus is creating havoc all around the world. It is time to bend our knees (physically if possible, if not metaphorically) before God and open our hearts to God. We cannot meet in the choir vestry of Leigh Memorial but we can join at 7pm from our home and spend time in prayer together. Find a quiet place, light a candle if possible, relax yourself and join others in spirit and pray.



Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar

Prayer Points

Pray to Almighty God to bring to an end the corona virus as quick as possible.

People:

- 1 Those who are experiencing difficulties physically, emotionally and spiritually, including: Joan E, Jolame R, Mae and Stephen H, Hazel K, Betty E, Bruce S, Paul M, the Gray & the deReland family, Kyung O, Victoria, Ivan C (Jr), Kamini S and her son, Sosi & Maca and their grandchildren (one only 7 months), and the parents of those children.
2. Our shut-ins and nursing home residents, their families as they are unable to enjoy face to face visiting and touch. Staff of nursing homes - that they might remain virus free and receive the care and support they need to continue to care for residents with calmness, competence and compassion.
3. Keith H, Christine BK, Hyun Goo J, Manas G, Amelia KB, Clive and Mary P, Sarah and leaders of the Leigh Memorial, Westmead, Korean Faith Community, Fijian congregation, Parramatta Mission staffs and volunteers, and all 'behind the scene' workers in our congregations.
4. Students at all levels, those studying from home especially Yr 12 (HSC), overseas students studying here, and those studying overseas.
5. Leaders of Parramatta Nepean Presbytery, Cumberland Zone, NSW Synod, the Assembly, our moderator Rev Simon Hansford, and President Dr Deidre Palmer.
6. Prime Minister, federal government and leaders of opposition, Premier of NSW, our state and local politicians – Julie O, Geoff L, Julia F, the Chief Medical Officer of Australia.
7. All medical and emergency workers everywhere.
8. The unemployed and those who are made redundant.

Ministries:

1. Ministries of Parramatta Mission, three congregations & the Korean Faith community in this unprecedented time that we may work together to build strong and caring communities and networks of support as we journey into the fearful and troubling times ahead knowing that we are disciples of Christ who do not travel alone and are sustained each day by our faith and the One who inspires us.
2. Sunday School ministries: students, teachers and helpers. Youth Groups and the leaders.
3. Ministry of Chaplaincy among the WSU students and in the Children's Hospital
4. DA for Parramatta Mission, and those working on this.
5. Inmates and staff of correctional centres, in particular women in custody and staff at Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre - that in this fearful and stressful time, staff recognise the vulnerability of those in their care and treat them with dignity and respect, and that staff and inmates diligently follow protocols in place to maintain their health and safety. Pray also for the Chaplain at Silverwater, and Chaplains in other prisons, who continue to provide practical, pastoral and spiritual care for inmates and staff across the prison systems. We pray that they experience the protective, strengthening and comforting presence of Christ accompanying them.
6. Ministry among the detainees in Villawood and those released in the community.
7. Women's Bible Study

8. Time Out Café and the ministries to the guests at 175.
9. Lenten and Holy Week Programmes and Preparations in new digital format
10. Church Council Meeting and Future Pastoral Direction.

Beyond the Border:

1. Victims of Corona Virus and research for remedy. Pray for those countries that are impoverished and not enough necessary medical staffs and other resources to cope with the crises. Those who are suffering the economic pinch of it.
2. Peace in the world, especially in the Syria and Yemen; and those working for global peace
3. Global refugee problem and also in our own shore.
4. Climate Change and abolition of Capital Punishment.
5. Disarmament of nuclear and all sorts of deadly weapons everywhere.