

A Pandemic Litany

It has been two years since Covid-19 was first declared a pandemic and our world halted to a stop. On this two-year anniversary, we invite you to light a candle and join in this litany together with those near and far across North Georgia.

We pause and name all those who have contracted Covid-19, those who have died, and all the funerals that we have missed.

We pause and name all the losses we have experienced, the tangible and the intangible.

We pause and name the hard choices that we had to make and the parts of life that will never be the same.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and mourn everything that stopped over the past two years.

We pause and mourn the loss of jobs, loss of dreams, and loss of relationships.

We pause and mourn that life will never go back to the “before” moment and that we are forever changed.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and express gratitude for all the healthcare workers who work tirelessly to care for people experiencing illness and their families.

We pause and express gratitude for the researchers that have worked collaboratively to create a vaccine to help end the pandemic.

We pause and express gratitude for the essential workers that stood in harms way to help us continue to meet our basic needs.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and reflect on all the time we’ve missed with those we love when we had to be apart.

We pause and reflect on all the extra time we had with those in our household.

We pause and reflect on how hard it was to crisis school our kids at home, take care of family members away from us, and still maintain our own jobs working from home.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and honor how tired we are still from managing and simply surviving these past two years.

We pause and honor that we made decisions even when we weren’t sure what was the right decision.

We pause and honor our resiliency, even when we haven’t felt resilient.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and acknowledge how worn out we are emotionally and physically from navigating this pandemic.

We pause and acknowledge how the constant pivoting and uncertainty has forever changed us.

We pause and acknowledge all the anger, sadness, and fear we felt over the past two years.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and appreciate all the new skills we learned over these past two years.

We pause and appreciate the adaptability that emerged within us and our communities.

We pause and appreciate that the pandemic granted us some permission to let things go that haven't been serving us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and celebrate all the new opportunities we gained from breaking with old ways and routines.

We pause and celebrate our newfound longing for community and connection.

We pause and celebrate that even when we weren't gathering at the church building, church kept happening.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pause and give thanks that you, God, sit with us in our moments of pain and know what that is like.

We pause and give thanks that you, God, have been present during this season of uncertainty and wilderness.

We pause and give thanks that you, God, have given us glimpses of the Kingdom of God in and through people and experiences over the last two years.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the darkness of the last two years, help us hold in tension the grief with the moments of light and hope. That while so much of the world has changed – God, you have remained the same. We bring to you all of these prayers as well as the unspoken words on our lips and in our hearts. We offer these prayers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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