

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving\*

As this long, difficult year draws to a close, we bring our requests in prayer to you, O Lord, along with these words of deep gratitude.

We give thanks for doctors, nurses and first responders who labor tirelessly to treat the sick and preserve the precious gift of life.

We give thanks for epidemiologists, health officials, scientists and technicians who seek to understand, inform and develop treatments for Covid-19.

We give thanks for public servants and elected officials who take the virus seriously, even at a cost to reputation and position.

We give thanks for essential workers – grocery store workers, teachers, farm laborers and others – who risk their health daily to provide the things we need and take for granted.

We give thanks for leaders who remind us that we share this pandemic unevenly as they advocate for communities marginalized by unjust systems.

We give thanks for the many people who wear a mask, stay home and practice social distancing when they are in public.

We give thanks for faith communities and people of faith who have reimagined practices, often worshipping virtually so they might do no harm.

May you, O Lord, continue to move within the hearts of your people,  
Inspiring generosity where there is need  
Calm where there is anxiety  
Energy where there is exhaustion  
Kindness where there is anger and frustration  
Understanding where differences are stark, and  
Knowledge where there is an absence of truth.

May your peace that exceeds our understanding keep our hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

\* *Inspired by Philippians 4:6-7*