

St. John's UCC Holy Week Virtual Prayer Walk



This week is Holy Week, and we come before you God with prayers for our city, our neighbors, and ourselves. You created us as people who flourish in community; we cry to you in this time of separation. In this time of pandemic, when we can not travel around our neighborhoods, we pray for those we can not be with. We pray for all in our city and surrounding areas, for our health, and for our safety in this time.



We pray for those in our state and city government. They have been called to lead in a time that is different than any we have known. Amid this time, we pray for wisdom that they might make good decisions that help the greater Richmond area be healthy. We pray that they make decisions that mean that, as we come through this time, we enter a more just world. We pray for a world where everyone has equal access to health care, a living wage, housing, and the ability to be part of a

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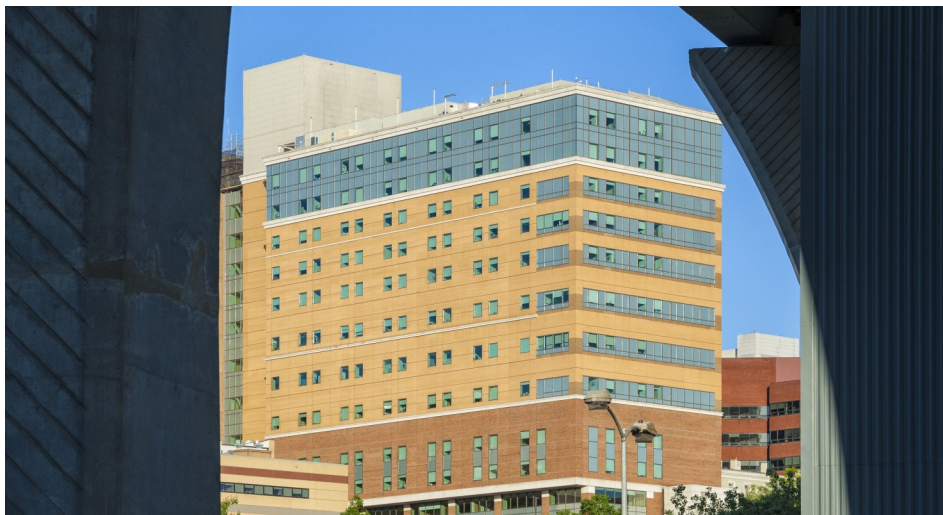
View from Oliver Hill Way



CITY OF RICHMOND JUSTICE CENTER
April 12, 2011

We pray for all people who are involved in any way in criminal justice. We pray for police, judges, and correctional officers, that they may see all in their care as their brothers and sisters who God created. We pray for these beloved of God, who are now dependent on these systems, that they are safe and receive loving justice.

We pray for inmates and those going before judges that they may be treated with justice and love. We pray that they may find ways to be in relation with those who love them and grow in the assurance that they are beloved. We pray for the victims of crimes that they may find healing and wholeness.



We pray for all those in hospitals. We pray for healing and wholeness for those who are ill and in hospitals. We pray for all who work in hospitals: doctors, nurses, CNAs, techs, and janitors. For all who work in hospitals: We give you thanks for being so brave and risking their safety and their families to care for those who need them. We ask that you, God, watch over them and keep them safe particularly now in this time of COVID-19. May we truly recognize how these people are our risking their lives so that our loved ones may be safe and cared for. May we never again take their gifts for granted or their value.

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We pray for all the small business owners who, during this pandemic, worry about keeping their businesses alive and safe for patrons and about keeping their employees paid. We pray that they have what they need to pay their workers a living wage and to have a living wage themselves. We pray for the workers, that they can survive during this time and come back to living-wage jobs. And we pray for the shoppers who rely on these stores, who hold the promise of being able to come back to shop and eat, and who wish that will be normal again.



As we look at this empty school, we pray for all the educators trying to find new ways to educate children when they can not be physically present with them. We pray for all the students who are missing their schools, teachers, and their sense of normal. God, be with them and help them heal from this trauma. Keep their families and their teachers safe in this time. We pray for those students who rely on school for food or safety. We pray that all children in all times have healthy schools have their needs beyond the education supplied. We pray that all our children, rich or poor, will get a world-class education through our schools in Richmond and the greater Richmond area.

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We pray for all the homeless who live in Richmond and all who are afraid of becoming homeless given all the jobs that have been affected by COVID-19. We give thanks for all the people and nonprofits who work together to help their unhoused neighbors, and we repent of all the ways we have helped create homelessness in our community. Help us to see those struggling as our neighbors and to ensure we include them in planning for the future in Richmond so we can ensure a community where no one needs to experience homelessness. Help us realize that, until we make sure the least of us are housed and have medical care, all of us will be at risk from COVID-19 or the next virus.



We pray for all who are residents of nursing homes. We pray for those who are missing their families and those who can not understand why their life seems different. We pray for those who have heard the news about this violence and are living in fear that they will get it. We pray for families missing visiting their loved ones now. We pray for the families who fear they will not be with them if their loved ones get sick.

We also pray for all who work in nursing homes. May they be safe and healthy through this time; may we appreciate all these workers do in the best of times. We pray these workers get a living wage as we exit this time so they can work only one job and not carry illness between homes. We also pray for all those who remain at home and those that make that possible. We pray for their health and their caretakers' health.

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We pray for all who work in grocery stores. We pray that they remain safe and healthy as they continue to work so we can get groceries. We give thanks that they are willing to take risks to keep the community healthy and fed. May we remember their sacrifices and make sure that they make a living wage when this ends. We also pray for farmers and all who are part of our food chain. May they not put profit ahead of the health of the community and their employees. We pray to God for the wisdom and will to make good decisions that support the environment on this planet that feeds us with air, water, and food.



We pray for this church and all worship centers in our community. They are having to learn how to be church in a new way, amid this time, and we ask your wisdom. We pray for all the leaders of synagogues, churches, mosques, and other worship centers, may they have the wisdom and faith to be present and serve their congregations.

Help us, dear God, to all learn new ways to grieve the losses of our loved ones when we cannot be together. Help us to know that we, the people of all religions, are the face of our faith. How we serve our neighbors and our community in this time will show the value of our faith. Help us all to keep our eyes on the divine as our hands stay busy serving our communities.

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We pray for all our first responders: paramedics, firemen, and police, who come when called to protect our community, no matter what the emergency. We give thanks that you have created people, God, who are called to serve their community, not only in these times, but at all times. We thank you for giving them wisdom that allows them to know how to protect themselves and their community. We ask, God, that you keep them safe and support them through this time, as well as in the days to come. Be also with the people in our 911 call centers, giving them faith and strength to be with people through the phones till first responders can arrive.



This restaurant reminds us, God, to pray for all people who work in restaurants who are not working now. We pray for restaurant owners and workers who fear the loss of their businesses and incomes. We repent of all the times we have assumed that these people will serve us and have not seen their needs. This restaurant pictured here also a Latinx business, which reminds us to pray for all immigrants who face particular difficulties during this time. Many are not eligible for the income support or business support others will receive. As we think about this, we repent and know we are called to fix the injustices in our country. God, give us wisdom to stand with and for all immigrants and refugees in our country. Help us, God, to hear their cries and needs and respond.

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We remember, dear God, all people who in this time are living in fear for themselves and their loved ones; we pray that they might feel your comforting presence. We pray for those for whom physical distancing means they are less safe due to domestic violence or other unsafe living conditions. May they, even in this time, find safe places to be and be supported by your presence. We pray for the healing of people, who in this time of social distancing, feel even more vulnerable due to depression and anxiety. We pray for their healing and that may feel your presence and know they and all of us are beloved of you. Amen.