

A Prayer in Times of Trial

Opening Prayer:

Leader: + O God, come to my assistance.

All: O Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Let us pray. [*pause for 10 seconds*]

God of wholeness and healing,
you are our reason for hope in troubled times.
Help us always to replace frustration with peace,
fear with confidence, and loneliness with friendship.
We as this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Scripture – Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

Reader: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

All: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress,
my God in whom I trust."

All: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reader: No evil shall befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your tent,
For to his angels he has given command about you,
that they guard you in all your ways.

All: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reader: Upon their hands they shall bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the asp and the viper;
you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

All: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reader: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him and glorify him.

All: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Response:

All sing together "The One Who Watches O'er Us," led either by a song leader or the YouTube video. Resources for "The One Who Watches O'er Us" can be found at: <https://orinjohnson.com/theonehowatches/>

Discussion Questions:

1. Verse one of this song references uncertain times, fear pervading the land, and anxious feelings. When you think about the pandemic and our response to it, what most concerns you?
2. In each verse of this song, God is referred to as "the one who never slumbers" and "the one who watches o'er us." Do those titles for God bring you comfort? Why or why not?
3. How can this time of isolation serve as an opportunity to bring us closer to God and more in line with God's will?

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Let us take a time of silence to call to mind those people, thoughts, feelings, and moments in our lives that need God the most. [*pause for two minutes of silence*]

Loving God, we entrust these prayers to you.
We ask that you answer them in your own time
and in your own way. We ask this through Christ, O Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: As we conclude this time together,
let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.
Our Father...

Leader: And may almighty God bless us,
+ in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.