

**LAM PRAYER**  
**AS A RESPONSIVE READING**  
**Robert Alley**  
**15-March-2020**

One: Let us unite our prayers.

O God of mercy and peace, we offer prayers for Christ's Church, the world, and all those who share in your creation.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: In this season of anxiety, uncertainty, and uprootedness, we remember that your loyalty to us never fails—You are faithful through each sunrise and sunset, through every calamity and celebration. Fill us with gratitude and trust to calm our anxious hearts. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: Forgive us when we misplace our loyalty to you; give us courage for decisions that require thought-filled consideration and heart-filled compassion to serve the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: We are anxious for our own health and that of our families and friends. We are anxious for how our livelihoods as well as our health are impacted by this coronavirus. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: Thank you for the scientists, doctors, medical personnel, and government leaders whose research, care, and decisions will chart a course through this pandemic. May those who risk themselves in any avenue of health care, especially with the elderly and with those who have contracted this virus, find courage to endure and protection for their safety. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: Especially, we remember teachers, parents, and academic leaders as well as students who must chart new avenues for learning. Bless them with energy for creative planning and for beneficial responses as a season of opportunity. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: So many in your world suffer, not only from this coronavirus but from war and violence, from hunger and starvation, from loneliness and despair, and from other sicknesses. We pray for them and for how we may respond with hope and resources for their benefit. Hear us, o God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: Today, we see Christ's church scattered throughout our community, nation, and world. Yet, we are in this current environment together. Use your Holy Spirit to draw us together with fresh love, with renewed collaboration, and with creative consideration for the needs and gifts of each other. Hear us, o God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great.**

One: We pray remembering how others before us have endured crises and found hope and courage to face the future. Give us that hope and courage as well. Hear us, o God.

**All: Your Mercy is Great. Amen**

*Submitted to the Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren – Shenandoah Update for publication on 3/19/2020*

*By Robert Alley*

*Retired Shenandoah District Pastor*