

“Prayers of the People” -- March 20, 2020

Our Dearest Lord and Loving Savior —

Three and a half millennia ago, you brought a million of your people to the edge of the Red Sea, a place where no matter where they turned, they saw failure and death.

You commanded that they trust you in the darkness,

And in that darkness, while they could not see you at work,
You were working to make a way for them.

As you did not bring THEM to THAT place to die,

You have not brought US to THIS place to fail.

You have repeatedly commanded us to remember THAT moment as a reason to trust you in THIS moment.

And so, our dearest Lord and Savior,
We ask you in this moment to give us the faith to trust that you keep your promises,
You never ever lie to us just to make us “feel” better.

This very moment, we ask you to give us the wisdom you have promised to give liberally if we ask for it.

We ask you to increase our faith,

We ask you to give us courage for the facing of this hour.

May we be living lights of your reality to the community to which you have given us the commission to communicate your Gospel of love, redemption, and eternal life with you.

We ask you to enlighten and empower us to use the minds, hearts, and skills you have given us to lovingly feed your sheep and to be un-flickering beacons of light in this darkness that sometimes seems to threaten to overwhelm us.

Help us to believe your face is turned toward us in the dark,
Help us to believe Your hand is extended to us when we falter and fear we will fall,
Help us to hear Your voice assuring us that you are the very same God of that long-ago moment;

And that, as we stand here,

We do not stand alone.

You have given to us each other,

You have given to us your divine assignment to accomplish for you,

You are giving to us — even as we ask — the strength to move forward with the certainty that by your grace, we can put in trust with your Gospel,

That You will give us all we need as we need it.

We ask, O God of grace and God of glory,

That on us, your people, —

Pour your strength, wisdom, and love

For the facing of this hour,

For the living of these days,

That we fail not your people — or You.

Keep us flexible in the hands of your Holy Spirit,

And never, ever let us go.

Amen.

Richard Dinwiddie