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**March 15, 2020 Collect for AMEC Response to Pandemic**

*In times like these we need a Savior.*

*In times like these we need an anchor.*

*Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.*

Gracious and everlasting God, Creator of all life, humanity and nature. We, your earthen children, in this time of unsettling pandemic approach your throne of healing and grace, trusting in your infinite mercy and love.

Almighty God, we pray for guidance, wisdom and strength for those who must make difficult and rapidly unfolding decisions regarding gatherings of the faithful, management of work environments, centers of learning, navigation of healthcare systems, and protection of the public. Let us remember you are not confined to a building, a room, or one congregation but you live, move and have your being in our hearts, minds, souls and strength.

Faithful God cover with your wings of protection, the isolated, the unhoused, the imprisoned, the food insecure, the working poor, the orphaned, the unchurched, and those who do not know of your love and protection. We seek your guidance against the systemic greed and political evils that seek to prevent universal testing or affordable treatment options. Reinforce in each of us the need for compassion, care and tangible hope for all people in this season of uncertainty.

Healing God, as we pray for those who have died or are sick due to the COVID-19 virus. Touch your sons and daughters in hospitals, nursing care facilities, the medically fragile, the uninsured and those among us that are the most vulnerable. Help us remember that taking precautions in uncharted territory does not mean lack of faith.

Illuminating God, shine your light in the darkness that shrouds your world. We know that You know all things and trust your direction. Birth new calmness in the lives of your children as we strive to live as people who have hope for tomorrow. Open our hearts, minds and spirits minds to freely and creatively demonstrate love of You, others and ourselves in innovative ways without compromising Christian love. Help us to be less judgmental or dismissive of each other and the choices we make in navigating this unknown territory.

Redeeming God, guide all your people back to some level of stability and trust. Direct us during this period of disruption to grow deeper in faith, reevaluate our journeys, and reacquaint

ourselves with our loved ones. Restore our belief in Your power to deliver us from this despair and rebirth our peace. Grant each of us uncompromising wisdom and courage for living despite the concerns of these days.

It is in the name Jesus, the Christ who promised to never or leave us or forsake us we pray this and believe it is already done. Amen

Dr. Teresa Fry Brown