

## **Prayer for worship at home**

Posted on March 15, 2020 by Maren C. Tirabassi

*Thirty-nine years ago today I was ordained to Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ at Church of the Covenant in Boston, Massachusetts. I anticipated many things. This morning when so many churches are closed was not one of those.*

God, I set aside this time for you.  
It is easier when there is a place to go,  
a gathering to join,  
a space with images that draw me,  
but here I am —  
outside walking or inside sitting.

I name this place church  
and this time is worship.

I pray for those who grieve  
the ones they love who died of coronavirus.

I pray for those who are ill now,  
self-quarantined, hospitalized,  
quarantined in terrible places,  
or unable to be tested.

I pray for those who self-quarantine  
to avoid the spread of illness.

I pray for those who are caring for the sick,  
who are struggling to find vaccine, cure,  
anything that will help,  
who risk themselves among the frail.

I pray for those whose lives  
are turned around,  
who have lost their employment,

who are desperately lonely,  
or suffering from too much family.

I pray for those who are full of fear,  
especially those who do not know  
that you are by their side.

I pray for those needs for prayer  
which can be forgotten  
in such a focused time —  
for help, hope, joy,  
for illness, hunger, homelessness, danger.

Now, O Holy One,  
I light a candle  
or take my jacket off the hook.

I turn to a live stream, you tube,  
television, devotional book,  
time of contemplation,  
private journaling,  
conversation over a scripture,  
that opens a message for me today.

Give me an insight to change my heart,  
a commission to change the world,  
and a benediction  
to bring peace to my week. amen.