

Prayer for Community Disaster

Some of the prayers and readings suggested may be used or adapted. The following reading and prayer may be used:

Leader: Let us listen to these words from Scripture.

Reader: I John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away
and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”
And the one who was seated on the throne said,
“See, I am making all things new.”

Revelation 21:1-5a

Other suggested readings:

*Daniel 3:25, 34-43 The Song of Azariah in the furnace;
Mark 4:35-41 The calming of the storm;
Romans 8:31b-39 A Hymn to God’s Love*

The leader may offer a brief reflection or invite the present to share a reflection. He invites all to pray saying “Let us pray” so that all may pray silently. Then he says:

Leader: God our Father,
you set the earth on its foundation
and all elements of nature obey your command.
Help us in our time of trouble;
calm the [flood, earthquake, widespread fire, or other disaster]
that threatens us
and turn our fear of your power
into praise of your goodness.

If people have died:

Have mercy on those who have died
and welcome them into your kingdom of peace and joy.
In your compassion look upon us
and give us tears to mourn their loss.

Let us always feel the presence of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.