

In the mystery of the beginning of things,  
Creator God, you made this planet, rock upon layer of rock,  
to be weathered and planted, to be a place for the living.

In the mystery of human life,  
Parent God, you made us,  
flesh and blood and spirit and bone,  
image of yourself, woman, man and child, for loving.

In the mystery of your unconditional love,  
Redeemer God, you came in Jesus,  
flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone,  
to buy us back from our captivity,  
back to our true belonging, together,  
daughters and sons of heaven,  
living and loving here on Earth.

So in this place, wherever that may be,  
we rest, content or cautious,  
to know your presence,  
hear your Word, sense your Spirit,  
welcoming us, and waiting, once again.

*Ruth Burgess c.2006 edit*

We can hardly believe all that you have given us  
we're so busy with our own lives  
we don't see you, right here before our eyes.  
We forget to feel your presence, right here in our hearts.  
We praise you.  
Make us generous givers in return.  
Help us to share what we have with others;  
the homeless, the hungry, the widow and orphan among us.  
The abused, the lonely and the oppressed.  
Help us find a way to offer comfort and love in such a way as you would offer  
...even if we are 'six feet apart.'

We pray for the families of Jose's Auntie Mitch, and for Jose's friend, Jurio, as they mourn each one's passing from Covid. Comfort them.  
We offer prayers for Candace, Jasmine, Sophia and Kahlina.

We pray for those whose names are on our church prayer list. A list where the names of the recovered are taken off with thanksgiving, the names of those who are now in your hands -we commit to you. And new names added of those who need your strength, and courage and healing love. This is our prayer list.

We pray for those we know who are anxiously waiting for medical test results, for a surgery date, for a Covid vaccine. We are thankful those who are in the hospital may now, maybe, have a visitor.  
We pray for the grieving. Be their strength.

And this is our own private prayer list;

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We continue to pray for everyone in India.  
We pray for the world as we move ever closer to having the Covid virus under control. Keep us all safe as we do our part.

Help us to rejoice in the faith that we have, in spite of our doubts and questions. We welcome the mysteries and metaphors of Christianity as your gifts of grace.

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day, our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.