Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

— Psalms 23:4-6 (ESV)

THE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we have been walking through the “valley of the shadow of death” for many months now. In a world scarred by division and traumatized by pain, the temptation to succumb to fear and despair is constant. This pandemic has resulted in many physical deaths, but also emotional, mental, financial, and economic downfalls as well. Today, however, we choose to fear no evil, for You are with us. Your presence and power are greater than anything we have faced or ever will face. Our souls are comforted and secured by the fact that You are both the Sovereign of the universe and our loving Shepherd.

Almighty God, we humble ourselves before You as the Sovereign of the universe, and we ask You to hear the prayers and cries of Your people around the world. We implore You to exercise the rod of Your authority against COVID-19. Smite it by Your power and eradicate it from our world, both directly and indirectly, through medical intervention as well as Your healing touch. You are our great Shepherd. We ask You to pour out Your comfort and love on our broken planet.

Lord, in the midst of conflict, challenge, and pain, You promise to prepare a table of provision for us. We come to Your table today, knowing we will find renewed strength as we worship You and feed on Your Word. We are desperate for a fresh in-filling of Your Spirit. We cling to Your promise to anoint our heads with oil. This anointing will bring faith, hope, and joy as Your fresh life and love flows to us—and through us—to those around us.

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, freshly fill us with Your Spirit today. Embolden and empower us for evangelism as we share the gospel with those around us. Send a mighty revival, which will shatter the gates of hell and rend the veil of spiritual darkness blinding the eyes of the world’s peoples. May Your faith, hope, and love flow into our lives with torrential power, bringing an overflow into our communities, cities, and nations. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.