



a message from

Bishop Devadhar

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

***"I lift up my eyes to the hills
— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth."*** — Psalm 121:1,2

When the Psalmist composed this song, he may have been literally looking up at the surrounding hills as he reflected on his pilgrim journey in a time of disillusionment and fear.

We, too, may look at the hills and mountains that surround us in New England and reflect on our faith journey as people of God in a time of deep anxiety and uncertainty.

COVID-19 has gripped our nation and peoples across the globe, causing illness and death, widespread fear, and disruption of our lives.

Psalm 121 reminds us that the God who made heaven and earth "will keep you from all evil ... will keep your life ... will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." (NRSV vs. 7-8)

God is with us in the midst of things that threaten us. As people of faith, we rely on God's help; we support one another; we trust that by the grace of God, we will get through these uncertain times together.

As your brother in Christ, I urge you not to lose hope. In the midst of uncertainty, draw inspiration from God's promises and pray — for the safety of all who are affected by this virus; for the committed medical professionals who, in caring for the sick, have placed themselves at risk; for the cooperation and leadership of national, state, and local authorities who are educating the public; for scientists and researchers who are tirelessly working to find a cure for this virus; for those who have lost jobs; and for families and relationships that are strained due to this



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pandemic.

Let us take this time as an opportunity to share our resources generously with those who are less privileged; to stay in contact with people by phone, internet connection, and email; to encourage, comfort, study, and pray with each other.

As I have said before, please follow the advice/instruction of your state and local officials and health departments with regard to in-person gatherings. [The "addressing coronavirus" page on our website](#) will continue to provide advice and resources for staying healthy and staying connected.

The Cabinet joins me in thanking each of you, clergy and laity alike, for your dedicated ministries. Please let us know if we can support you in any way during these challenging and crucial times. Our prayers continue to be with each and every one of you.

With deep prayers and in Christ's love,



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

***Oh God,
Who made heaven and earth
Who helps us in our trouble
Who slumbers not
Who shades us from the scorching heat
Who holds our feet steady
Who saves us from evil
Who keeps our going and coming —
In your mercy, hear our prayer.
In the name of Christ Jesus
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
Amen***

Transformed by the Holy Spirit, united in trust,
we will **boldly** proclaim Christ to the world.