

I chuckled at the “if you are not feeling particularly disrupted” phrase, which would be miraculous for 2020. I took option 2 because there was no way I could do option 1. BUT I changed it (this is why I like having classes in person where you can ask questions before you do something and not worry about if it is ok) to make it more personal (which is, I think, the goal of option 1) because I have a dear friend who I have known for 25 years who is battling pancreatic cancer. So instead of imagining the COVID patient in the ICU, I just wrote a prayer of lament for my friend Alema. I truly hope that this is ok (actually I’m just trusting that you will say ok and going for it ☺)

Lord, you are mighty and powerful
Above all and in all
From the beginning to the end You are
There
And here.

The disease ravages her body,
Her insides hurt mightily
Pounds fall away
Appetite non-existent
Little physical strength is left

Chemo exhausts each and every cell in her body
Anti-chemo measures are just as bad
Pounding head
Metallic mouth
Aching bones
Neuropathic feet

Mentally so strong but
Getting tired
Lonely days
Long nights
Fighting for her life

HEAL HER LORD!
Now!
Today!
Banish the evil cells
Shrink the tumor to nothing
Pack on the pounds of muscle to
Restore strength in her limbs

You have softened her heart already Lord,
To receive and express love more,
Now let her see your power
Comfort
Sustain
Teach
Lead

Let her see the growth of her grandchildren
Let her bask in the warmth of visits with family and friends
Let her witness David's graduation, wedding and children
Let her hike mountains
Let her see many more colorful autumns and snowy winter nights
Let her return home again to see her family there
Let her continue to bless people with great food and hospitality

Use this Lord to show
Your goodness
Your grace
Your healing power
That you are for her and not against
That you alone can conquer death
You have in the past and you can do it now

Your power and majesty exceed anything we know
You alone can rectify this situation
You, Father, are gracious and loving
Powerful and mighty
Comforting and nurturing
We belong to you and look to your unfailing love
For there is no other place and way
You alone are our hope

Reflection:

I hope you are wearing your counselor hat. Here we go:

- This was exhausting to write.
- I am not a natural poet.
- I have a lot inside of me from watching Alema fight this and I am grateful for the opportunity to get some of it out.
- I wonder if I have enough guts to give it to Alema for her to read. (Still not sure about that one)
- I liked that there was a pattern to follow so that I did not just ramble. It helped focus the energy of the words.

That's all I've got!