

***Prayer for the Community
offered by the Rev. Judith Michaels, HR***

An Interfaith Prayer in a Time of Pandemic

Washing my hands, reminds me of the waters of Chautauqua Lake,

Which reminds me of the majestic tolling of the Miller Bell Tower,

Which reminds me of the many kinds of music that fills the air and our hearts,

Which reminds me of the laughter of children and the beauty of our gardens,

Which reminds me of the beauty of different faces, complexions, generations,

and faiths,

Which reminds me of dance and art, being challenged by different perspectives, and the restorative power of prayer.

Which reminds me of how sacred everything feels at our beloved Chautauqua,

Which reminds me to give thanks to the Holy One for all these blessings we share.

Be with us, Divine One, in this time of anxiety,

Comfort those who are infected, soothe all of us who are affected,

Strengthen and protect the medical caregivers,

Embolden our leaders with strength and wisdom,

Give us holy permission to do what is best in each moment, even if that's

“hunker down.”

Renew our hope for a world —

With less anxiety and more joy,

With less “me first,” and more “no, please, after you!”

With less fear, and more love.

And bring us safely home, back to the Chautauqua which was, and is,

and will be.

Amen.

—The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Vice President of Religion and Senior Pastor
Chautauqua Institution

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