

For those of a religious nature, here are some thoughts on prayer submitted by a local faith leader, Matt Ristuccia, Pastor of Stone Hill Church of Princeton, who sends his well-wishes to all the residents and leaders of Montgomery at this difficult time:

Early morning moments are so important. As soon as we wake up, an unnoticeable battle begins for our minds and hearts, and our posture for the day is set without knowing it. Will I live by fear? Will I give in to making personal safety my overriding concern? Will I conveniently forget the needs and well-being of those around me? During this Holy Week, I have found that prayer to God can push back and rescue my heart. Here are six short prayers I have personally used in those morning moments to win the battle:

1. Heal those suffering from COVID right now, and protect those who are not infected with the virus.
2. Give those on the front lines (nurses, doctors, paramedics, EMTs, police officers) a double measure of health, strength, and personal peace.
3. Provide assistance, hope, and support to those who without jobs, without income, and at risk.
4. Turn back the advance of the virus in other nations, including places dear to me (in my case, China, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, Morocco, and Turkey).
5. Help people here in NJ, in the USA, and throughout the world do what is necessary to slow down the spread of the virus and, in the case of professionals, find a cure.
6. Show me the one thing I should do today to make a difference in the lives of others during this pandemic.