

Prayer in a time of Coronavirus

Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to

- fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.
- stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.
- give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes and Churches

- around the nation and around the world
- we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, and lift up our hearts together in prayer.

A Psalm of lament and praise in a time of coronavirus

How shall we praise you, Lord, our God?

When we are locked down, how shall we praise you?

When the doors to your house are barred, and your people cannot assemble?

When those urgently in need of money and work can't even wait in the market-place?

When we have to circle round people in the street,
and to queue for shops maintaining safe distance?

When we can only communicate by hearing on the phone,
or seeing on the screen; or by digital messaging,
or even just waving through a window?

When we cannot meet our parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren,
or other family members and friends?

When we cannot touch them in their flesh and blood, to know they are really alive?

How shall we praise you?

How, like Thomas, shall we not see yet believe that your son is raised among us?

How shall we praise you?

Lord, I will try to praise you.

Through gritted teeth, I will try to praise you.

I will try to remember that you created all things, and this virus is part of creation.

I will try not to hate it but seek to mitigate its harm.

I will try to do my bit to keep others safe, by the way that I behave.

I will pray for all those around me and seek to help in whatever way I can.

Lord, when I cannot pray or worship help me be aware of all your people
and your saints and angels hovering around me, lifting me up.

When I feel alone, let me feel you near me,
even if only for a moment that enables me to go on.

Let me hear you say "*Peace be with you*".

Lord, I will praise you. Let all the peoples praise you.

Prayers for Others

God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working
to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

Prayers for Ourselves

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we're anxious, help us to consider
 the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to be selfish in the way that we use and share your bounty..
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others
 more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good, see the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,
Amen.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who're brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing
that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling (*name how you are feeling*)
 because (*reasons you are feeling this way*).
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.
Amen.