

Some prayers for use during the pandemic

God of all mercy and compassion,
life and death are in your hands.

Hear our prayers in this time of illness and infection,
of isolation, fear, and uncertainty:
for the sick, and those weighed down by pain, distress,
loneliness, and anxiety;
for all who care for them, conscious of the risks they bear;
and for those who have responsibility for public health and social order.

Hear the cry of the afflicted and let them be comforted,
so that all who suffer may come to know
that they are joined to the sufferings of Christ,
who gave his life for the salvation of the world;
and by your blessing on them and those who care for them,
may they be restored, according to your will,
to soundness of body and mind,
and offer you joyful thanks in your Church.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

God of our Salvation,
you have ordained that we should serve you
in serving one another.

Look upon this nation,
burdened at this time with many cares and anxieties,
with infection, sickness, and untimely death.

Grant us grace to work together,
with honest and faithful hearts,
each caring for the good of all;
that, striving first for your kingdom and its righteousness,
we may have added to us all things that we need
for our daily sustenance
and the common good.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Based on a prayer of Geoffrey Fisher)

O God, whose love we cannot measure,
nor even number thy blessings:
we bless and praise thee for all thy goodness,
who in our weakness art our strength,
in our darkness, light,
in our sorrows, comfort and peace,
and from everlasting to everlasting art our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end.

(Supplement to the Indian Book of Common Prayer)

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked (John 20. 19)

Ever-present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.

(A prayer by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark)