

A Resource for Prayer during the Coronavirus Outbreak

*Please feel free to take
this home with you*



Introduction

*The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.
(Nahum 1.7)*

In this booklet are a number of prayers and readings from the Bible that we hope will assist you in your prayer at this time. In prayer, we are able to bring to God all our concerns, questions and desires. We don't have to use any special language to speak with Him and we encourage you to make these prayers your own. Even at this time of trial for many, we are promised comfort in knowing the nearness of God who is faithful and will never desert us.

You are welcome to take this booklet with you when you leave. If you would like to speak or pray with us in confidence we are here to support you. Even though the church has currently suspended public services, you are very welcome to contact Revd George Crossley or Revd Ben Care on the numbers below.

Rev. George Crossley 01283 516804
Rev. Ben Care 01283 565795

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am
with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep
me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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.

*Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and
are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am
gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for
your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is
light.*

Matthew 11.28-end

Prayer for Family Members and Friends

Merciful God,

I entrust to your unfailing and tender care all those I love and care for

knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.

Particularly I lift to you (*names*)

In this time of separation and isolation,

Comfort and protect them, maintain their health, wellbeing and strength;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer for Neighbours

Lord Jesus Christ,

you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need

as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength

to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,

and to assure the isolated

of our love, and your love,

for your name's sake.

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.

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Isaiah 43.1-3a

Prayer for those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer from one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

Psalm 23

Prayer for hospital staff and medical researchers

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.

Prayer for Our Local Community

Father God, we pray for all who live in this area
We pray for peace and an absence of panic in our
communities
That you might use this situation to bring good out
of us
We ask for those who have to continue to work and
who daily expose themselves to risk and harm
We pray for our shops, that supplies and essentials
would reach them
We pray that we might be attentive to those around
us
And pray for people who are most vulnerable and
isolated

Prayer for the Global Situation

Lord God, creator and sustainer of all things and all
people.

We lift to you all people across the globe who are suffering at this time
We pray particularly for those in the poorest communities
We ask that resources will reach all who need them most
That those countries who have medical technologies and supplies for treatment will share them with generosity.
We pray for all leaders, governments and decision makers,
May they know wisdom, wise council and a seeking after the common good.
Amen

Jesus said: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14.1-6

Prayer for the Christian community

We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs

For as long as it takes

wherever you call us.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High

will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my

fortress,

my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you

from the fowler's snare

and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,

and under his wings you will find refuge;

his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Psalms 91:1-4