

Prayer Resources

These resources are offered to help those who are struggling to find words at this difficult and stressful time, and to enable Christians to worship in solidarity with one another even if it is not possible to gather in church.

Prayers about the outbreak

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 are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing
can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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. **Amen**

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.**

Prayer during a Pandemic

May we, who are merely inconvenienced,
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we, who have no risk factors,
remember those most vulnerable.

May we, who have the luxury of working
from home, remember those who must
choose between preserving their health or
making their rent.

May we, who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close,
remember those who have no options.

May we, who have to cancel our trips,
remember those who have no safe place to
go.

May we, who are losing our margin
money in the tumult of the economic
market, remember those who have no
margin at all.

May we, who settle in for a quarantine at
home, remember those who have no home
at all.

As fear grips our country, may we instead
choose faith, hope, and love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each
other, help us find ways to be the loving
embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen

(author unknown)

Personal Prayers particularly if you can't get to church

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.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship
with all my life,
I am giving you obedience
with all my power,
I am giving you praise
with all my strength,
I am giving you honour
with all my speech.
I am giving you love
with all my heart,
I am giving you affection
with all my sense,
I am giving you my being
with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul,
O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

*adapted from Alexander Carmichael,
Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way
toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes
and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your
gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

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.

St Benedict

Before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and
returns again to light:

we place in your hands our unfinished
tasks,

our unsolved problems,

and our unfulfilled hopes,

knowing that only what you bless
will prosper.

To your love and protection

we commit each other

and all those we love,

knowing that you alone

are our sure defender,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of South India

Prayers with Children

A Prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, *(name of friend)* is ill.
They are not allowed to go to school or
come over to play.
I'm sad because I miss them.
They must be feeling miserable and lonely
as well.
Please be close to them.
Please be with the people who are looking
after them.
Please help them to get better and to know
that you love them. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the world

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.**

A Prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
Tonight we pray especially for
*(names family or friends who are
affected by Coronavirus)*
and the people of
*(country or place which is
affected by Coronavirus).*
Please give skill and wisdom
to all who are caring for them. **Amen.**

A Prayer remembering that God is with us

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.