



# Prayers for the COVID-19 crisis from the worldwide church

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collated by Reverend Canon Cynthia Dowdle OBE and Ultan Russell

## 1

We pray for all impacted by COVID-19:

- for comfort for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been quarantined and are feeling alone.
- for healing for those who are sick.
- for safety, strength and compassion for medical workers who may be overwhelmed caring for those who are battling various illnesses, and workers who are exposed to greater risks.
- that public officials act with compassion and wisdom as they work to contain the virus.
- for those without access to health care, and for those who don't know how they will make it if they get sick and can't go to work.
- that your peace will guard our hearts and minds so that we are not overcome by anxiety and fear.

God, inspire in us ways to show your love to one another and to ourselves.

Guide our hearts and our actions to greater care, kindness and generosity in the midst of these fears and uncertainties. Amen.

**Mennonite Church USA staff (adapted)**

## 2

The Lord God is the creator of heaven and earth;  
the creator of all life forms in the earth  
He created all life and everything good.  
In this COVID-19 era,  
he sees the misery of his people,  
who are infected and affected by this disease.

He has heard their cry in this epidemic.  
He knows their sufferings  
and he has come down to deliver them.  
So he calls to send us to the infected and affected,  
to bring his people, his creation,  
out of this epidemic. Amen.

**3** Almighty and merciful Father,  
who shows your love to all creation,  
we come before you asking for a quick control  
of the coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers  
we make for those affected  
by the virus in various parts of the world.  
Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead  
and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that effective medicines  
to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant Governments  
and Health Authorities that they take  
appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus. Amen.

**Catholic Bishops of Africa**

**4** In this time of COVID-19, we pray:  
When we aren't sure, God, – help us be calm.

When information comes –  
from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern.

When fear makes it hard to breathe,  
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,  
slow us down, God.

Help us to reach out with our hearts,  
when we can't touch with our hands.

Help us to be socially connected,  
when we have to be socially distant.

Help us to love as perfectly as we can,  
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.  
In the love of the Creator,  
in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit  
that is in all and with all, we pray. Amen.

**United Church of Canada**

**5** *God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1, NRSV)*

As so much is re-shaped by coronavirus COVID-19, let us pray with:

- people left unwell, beckoned by death or bereaved.
- people providing professional health care and advice, looking after loved ones at home or working to create treatments and cures.
- people shaping the response of nations and neighbourhoods, of commerce and industry, of service & voluntary organisations and of communities of faith.
- people who are anxious or afraid, alone or isolated.

Living, loving God, we praise you,  
and through times of peril we lean into you,

You have trodden paths as difficult as ours,  
revealing there a love that nothing defeats,  
a love that bears us through.

Even as we strive to behave responsibly,  
and to care reliably,  
so we feel after you  
that in these uncertain times  
we might trust you are with us,  
our refuge and strength, and our faith,  
hope and love might be renewed,  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

**United Reformed Church (United Kingdom)**

**6** God Our Father, each person is precious to You.  
You are the Giver of life.

Have mercy on us and protect us at this time,  
as the coronavirus threatens health and life.

You are an ever-present Helper in time of trouble.  
Watch over those who are suffering,

Give strength to those who are aiding the Sick  
and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.

We ask this of you in the name of your Son. Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool**

7

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against COVID-19 that has claimed lives and has affected many.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted may they be restored to health soon. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

**Catholic Bishops of the Philippines**

8

Following Easter, we often hear sermons about the road to Emmaus, when Jesus came alongside and walked with the disciples. May our hearts “burn within us” because we are enjoying his presence through prayer.

We pray for:  
those who have lost family members;  
those who are alone, isolated and afraid;  
for many who have very little during this time of isolation;  
families whose futures seem uncertain.

We pray to support the army of essential workers who are holding us up

May we pray with urgency that God’s mighty hand will hold back and stop COVID-19. God help us to be faithful. Amen.

**Adapted from an Easter address by  
General Brian Peddle, Salvation Army**

**9** Your loving care Lord Jesus,  
when you walked with us on earth  
you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care  
all who are affected by coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.  
Bring relief to our sick,  
console our bereaved,  
protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,  
and trust in your infinite mercy,  
as we wait for the daybreak. Amen.

**Adapted by CAFOD (England & Wales)  
from an Ebola prayer by Caritas Guinea**

**10** God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us  
in our places of pain and fear.

Look with mercy on those  
who have contracted the new virus,  
on any who are vulnerable,  
and on all who feel in danger.

Through this time of global concern,  
by your holy spirit,  
bring out the best, not the worst in us.

Make us more aware of our interdependence  
on each other and of the strength  
that comes from being one body in you.  
Through Christ, our wounded healer. Amen.

**Episcopal Diocese of Washington**

**11** O Jesus, be the canoe  
that holds me up in the sea of life.  
Be the rudder  
that keeps me in the straight road.  
Be the outrigger that supports me  
in times of temptation.

Let your Spirit be my sail  
that carries me through each day.

Keep my body strong  
so I can paddle  
steadfastly on in the voyage of life.  
We ask this prayer though Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Melanesian prayer**

**12** Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**National Council of Churches Australia**

**13** 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.

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. Amen.

**Church of England**

**14** O Merciful God,  
in a time of unknowingness,  
fear and lack of knowledge  
regarding the origins of coronavirus.

We come to you with open arms,  
Welcoming people from all other places,  
Acknowledging our human frailty  
and our need for your healing power.

O God, we pray for the loss of life,  
For those who care for the sick  
and ask for recovery to those in need of healing.  
We pray for the cure of this disease and restoration of health.

We praise you, O God,  
in time of trouble and confusion;  
You have reminded us  
that you are our loving God and Saviour.  
Help us to spread Christian faith  
as we seek your truth and love each day. Amen.

**Reverend Florence Li**  
**American Baptist Home Mission Societies**

**15** Hear our cry, Almighty God.  
Listen to our prayer.  
How long will we have to hide  
in our homes from this invisible enemy?

Where will it strike next?  
And whom? And what if ... ?  
Our screens relay a continuous escalation  
of suffering and death around the world.

Panic and anxiety abound.  
Our souls are weary from the strain  
of the life-altering unknowns.

Heavenly Father,  
from the depths of our pain and confusion,  
we cry out to You.

From fear-filled hearts and anxious minds,  
we plead with You.

Rescue us, Father of compassion and grace.

We lift up our eyes to You, Lord God,  
the One who sits enthroned in heaven. Amen.

**Methodist Church of Singapore**

**16** Loving and healing God, We, turn to you in prayer,

Confident that you are with us  
and with all people in every moment.

We stand before you as people of hope,  
Trusting in your care and protection.

May your faithful love support us  
and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

Generous God,  
fill us with compassion  
and concern for others, young and old,

That we may look after one another  
in these challenging days.

Bring healing to those  
who are sick with the virus  
and be with their families.

May those who have died  
rest in your eternal embrace.  
Comfort their family and friends.

Strengthen and protect  
all medical professionals  
caring for the sick  
and all who work in our medical facilities.

Give wisdom to leaders  
in healthcare and governance

that they may make the right decisions  
for the well-being of people.

We pray in gratitude for all those  
in our country who will continue  
to work in the days ahead  
in so many fields of life  
for the sake of us all.

Bless them and keep them safe.

O God of creation and life,  
we place ourselves in your protection.

May the mantle of your peace  
enfold us this day and tomorrow. Amen.



**17** Almighty and All-loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
We pray to you through Christ the Healer  
for those who suffer from the COVID-19.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,  
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,  
comfort to everyone in distress  
and a sense of calm to us all  
in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord  
who showed compassion to the outcast,  
acceptance to the rejected  
and love to those to whom no love was shown.

**Church of Ireland**

**18** God, we are insecure and worried  
Things are spinning out of control  
Fear spreads faster than the virus  
My neighbour is becoming a threat  
Borders are closing  
People are becoming isolated

God, we understand the measures  
and attempts to ensure safety  
God, we are insecure and worried  
You came to earth to heal,  
where fear and mistrust is spreading  
You came to earth to comfort,  
where hopelessness and loneliness is felt  
You came to earth  
among the outcasts and marginalised

We pray to you:

Give us the courage to face illness and death,  
and never give up  
Give us the vigour to spread hope  
where fear darkens the world  
Give us the strength to encourage people  
who feel lonely and excluded

God, we know that we are connected  
as churches through your Spirit  
Even across the borders between us. Amen.

**Reverend Sören Lenz, Executive Secretary,  
Conference of European Churches (CEC)**

**19** The grace of God guides us,  
We don't lack and never will lack anything.  
He leads us to places of rest and care  
and to drink waters of trust.  
He renews our strength so we do not abandon  
the path of solidarity, because it is there, in our empathy with others, where we honour  
his name.

Even though we pass through polluted streets  
and places of possible contagions,  
we will not fear any danger,  
because You, divine presence, maintain the prudent distance between tenderness and  
respect,  
and that inspires us with serenity and confidence.

We will share the table again,  
and the banquet and the party,  
before the astonished gaze of the empire  
of the viruses and of any empire  
that proposes death and exclusion.  
We will fill our cups again until they overflow  
to toast for the new worlds, already stripped of their greed and their thirst for power,  
more aware of being family, people, humanity.

Surely your goodness and love will follow us  
every hour of each journey until we know  
how to make this earth of yours a house  
in which we can all live, in our full  
and rich diversity, with health, fullness,  
dignity, bread, shelter, work and justice, forever.

**Reverend Gerardo Oberman  
Reformed Church of Argentina**

**20** You are the healer of our souls and bodies,  
give recovery to those affected by sickness  
by raising them up from the bed of pain,  
to praise You, Merciful Saviour,  
and protect the healthy from any disease.  
Bless, strengthen and protect with your Grace,  
O Lord, all those who, with love of people  
and sacrifice, care for the sick  
at their homes or hospitals.

Remove all sickness and suffering from people  
and teach us to cherish life and health as your gifts.  
Give us, Lord God, your peace and fill our hearts  
with unwavering faith in your protection,  
reliable in your help and love  
towards you and your neighbour.  
To you belongs the mercy to save us, Our God.

**Romanian Orthodox Church**

# 21

Let us all reflect that in the midst of this crisis the Lord invites us to be reawakened and to put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering.

The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.

We have an anchor:  
by his cross we have been saved.

We have a rudder:  
by his cross we have been redeemed.

We have a hope:  
by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love.

In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.

The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us.

Let us not quench the wavering flame that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring.

It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity.

By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others by embracing the Lord. Amen.

**Pope Francis (adapted from his)  
Urbi et Orbi meditation**

**22** Holy God, as we move  
into being your church in new ways  
may we pray for and support one another,  
and know the inner calm  
that comes from faith in you.

Bless those who are sick  
and those who are anxious and alone.

As we experience physical isolation  
may our social connections be made stronger.

As people of all nations may we unite in peace  
so that your love will always be present.

Bless us through Jesus Christ our Liberator,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Archdeacon Carole Hughes  
Diocese of Auckland  
International Anglican Women's Network**

**23** O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth,  
and of all creation visible and invisible,  
in your ineffable goodness, look down upon us,  
your people gathered in your Holy Name.

Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction.  
You know our weakness.  
You hear our cry in repentance  
and contrition of heart.

O Lord who loves mankind,  
deliver us from the impending threat of the coronavirus.

Send your angel to watch over us and protect us.  
Grant health and recovery  
to those suffering from this virus.

Guide the hands of physicians  
and preserve those who are healthy.

Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace  
that together we may glorify your most honourable and majestic name  
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of America (adapted)**

**24** O Lord, We pray for all the people and countries affected by this lethal virus.  
Let us remember every brother and sister affected in our prayers every day.

Let us pray that this disaster, like so many others is a time for humanity's fellowship when maps and borders collapse.

Lord let us rejoice at the commendable fellowship manifested now across continents by good people.

Lord of Life who protects people from all evil may we become an "army of prayer warriors" to rise in robust defiance against this sickness with our prayers and actions.

May this current outbreak, be an occasion for introspection on the ultimate meaning and destination of human life and the arrogance and audacity of human institutions.

As Lord we acknowledge, in humility, our human fragility and mortal nature remembering that you are the only superpower over our lives.

Our Lord we remember that disasters and virus pandemics periodically remind humanity that we all have only one planet strengthen us that we realise that we either stand together or fall together.  
Lord in ask this in Your Name. Amen.

**Based on a statement by  
Myanmar's Cardinal Charles Bo**

**25** May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst.  
Help us to live by faith and not by fear.  
to build bridges not barriers, and to resist all who would speak ill of any other group.

May we not forget our responsibility to one another, not least to the vulnerable and voiceless in our communities.  
Help us to find ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance. Amen.

**Right Reverend Colin Sinclair  
Moderator, Church of Scotland**

**26** God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Hear our cry.

Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry.

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Hear our cry.

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry.

Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbour. Hear our cry.

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry. Amen.

**Lutheran World Federation**

**27** 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. Amen.

**Church of South India  
(via the Church of England's website)**

**28** When human life is disturbed, disrupted, and threaten by the novel coronavirus, we pray to you, God of life.

Grant us the compassion, humility and self-discipline to value, care about and protect each life.

We pray to you, God of mercy, for all who have suffered directly and indirectly during this global pandemic.

May you sustain, console, and heal them. We pray to you, God of grace, for all good efforts to rescue life and to maintain people's health.

May you strengthen, guide and protect all who have committed to fight against this disease.

We pray to you, God of righteousness, for justice to prevail.

May you lead us to combat racism, discrimination, stigmatization, and xenophobia with courage in the midst of this health crisis.

We pray to you, God of love, for an early end to the transmission of COVID-19 that is harming all, and for life, health and peace for all, through your mercy, grace and loving care, and through human solidarity, integrity and mutual support. Amen.

O Lord, may we be directed what to do, and what to leave undone, and then may we humbly trust that a blessing will be with us.

**Reverend Dr Manhong Melissa Lin**  
**Associate General Secretary**  
**China Christian Council**

**29** Enable us, O Lord, to feel tenderly and charitably toward all. Help us to have no soreness toward any.

Let us think no evil,  
bear all things, hope all things,  
endure all things.  
let us walk in all humility before all we meet,  
and into your sight. Amen.

**Elizabeth Fry**  
**Quaker social reformer**

**30** The world now is too dangerous  
and too beautiful for anything but love.

May your eyes be so blessed  
to see God in everyone.

Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.

May your hands be so blessed  
that everything you touch is a sacrament.

Your lips, so you speak nothing  
but the truth with love.

May your feet be so blessed  
you run to those who need you.

And your heart be so opened, so set on fire,  
that your love, your love, changes everything.

**Archdeacon Sue Pinnington MBE**  
**Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys**  
**The Church in Wales**

**31** My Lord Jesus,  
We are come to you very humble  
during Your ministry on Earth  
you showed Your love by healing people  
of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments.

O, Lord of Mercy,  
Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19.  
They need Your power of healing  
through the care and treatment.

Kindly take away all fear, anxiety, and feelings  
of isolation from people receiving treatment.  
Protect their families and friends.

Dear Lord, we request for those people  
who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19  
– the elderly and people with chronic health conditions.

Protect them from harm and be  
their comfort in this time of uncertainty.

Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, researchers, and leaders responsible for  
decisions about fighting the new coronavirus. Amen.

**Prayer from Pakistan**  
**(via British Methodist Connexion)**