



Forty Days and Forty Nights

Eighty ecumenical prayers and reflections for the COVID-19 crisis from the worldwide church

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.

**The All Africa Conference of Churches based on Covenant
document on HIV/AIDS 8th General Assembly, Cameroon, 2003**

3

Gracious God, when the flame of our faith burns low; when we are tempted to despair,
remind us that this is your world and that your love and justice will prevail.

Take our small flame of faith and fan it into life. Empower us to work for our common good. Amen.

Rev Jennie Hurd, Chair of the Cymru Methodist District

4

Lord Jesus, we pray today that you will come to us in all our anxiety and uncertainty, our sorrows and despair, and in our loneliness and isolation.

Come through the walls and doors that separate us from one another and from you.

Help us not to be afraid but to trust in your goodness and love.

We know that you are always with us, so lift our weary hearts so that we might give you praise.

Be with us as you promised your disciples so long ago in Galilee, now and always, *even to the end of the age.*

**Rev Dr Craig Phillips, Arlington, Virginia,
Episcopal Church of the USA**

5

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

6

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**

7

God of love, look upon your family. Come to the help of our humanity stricken by so much suffering.

Comfort those who are weeping, support those who are boldly taking up the challenge of solidarity.

Through the resurrection of Christ, you open up for us a horizon as yet uncharted, where a new light is appearing.

And so, just like on Easter morning, we can find hope again and say with our lives:
“Christ is risen!”
- “Yes, he is risen indeed!” With grim news besetting us every day, we ask God to come.
Amen.

**Taizé Community, France
Brother Alois extract from an Easter meditation**

8

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**

9

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.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin

10 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

11 *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 and 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, in Jesus
Christ. 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 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

12 We bear witness to our faith, knowing that we are called to lives of courage, love, and reconciliation.

In the ordinary and extraordinary moments of each day, may we be courageous today.

May we learn today. May we love today. Amen.

**A prayer of courage
Corymeela Community, Northern Ireland**

13 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:38-39)*

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,
not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care. Amen.

**A prayer for times of isolation
Christian Aid**

14 As we begin this journey together, I ask you to consider what God said to Joshua as he led the children of Israel toward the flooded Jordan river. He said: "Stay close to the Ark of the covenant because you have never been this way before."

We can say the same thing about the moment we are living through right now. We too have never been this way before. Just as they had never walked through a flooded river while God held back the waters, we have never experienced mass isolations and self-quarantine.

But we can be sure that the same God who held back the waters for His people then is still the protector and provider of His people today. Once they passed through to the other side, they were never the same. They went from *wilderness wanderers* to landowners. They ceased to be *manna gathers* to become *fruit harvesters*.

Who knows, we could be in the middle of the same kind of transformation? This I do know, the same admonishment God gave to Joshua is still good for us; "Stay close to God and His word, go where you see Him go and do what His word says and you will come out the other side of this better off than when you started the journey." Amen.

**The General Council of the Assemblies of God
in the United States of America**

15 God of all life and all hope, hear our prayers.
As the world grows ever more anxious and fearful, may your spirit of comfort and peace be with us.

As changes sweep over us, as uncertainty surrounds us, help us to know that you are with us.

Always and forever, you are with us, and nothing can separate us from your love. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Rev Lee Hull Moses
The Disciples of Christ, America and Canada

16 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.

The Lutheran World Federation

17 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

18 Let us pray: For the spiritual welfare of our congregations.

May members take a warm personal interest in one another's welfare. May we all be active in pastoral care.

In the greater events of life it is our duty and privilege to share in one another's joys and sorrows.

May we remember that sympathy thus shown is a potent means of binding us in closer fellowship. Amen.

Adapted from Friends House London
(Quaker faith & practice 10.17)

19 Dear Father, who created us, and redeemed us,
and who has promised us your love, be with us in a time of danger and of worry.

May those who suffer, or who are ill, know the blessing of your grace,
while we who are well be inspired by your Spirit to be wise and to be servants,
working for the healing and wholeness of all, each in our own way.

Keep us calm and cautious, strong, and open to service,
So that we take care of those around us, and also ourselves.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Bishop Gregory Cameron of St Asaph
The Church in Wales

20 God of compassion, God-with-us, be with us in these times of uncertainty.

Break into our lives, rekindle our hope and breathe love into our communities,
that we might find new ways of supporting and upholding one another,
bearing witness to your inclusive love of family, friend, neighbour, and stranger alike.

May our love for those most vulnerable in our community become a beacon of hope for all.

In faith, hope, and love, in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Rev Denise Liersch
Uniting Church of Australia

21 *Jesus said I will never leave you nor for sake you that you may be boldly say, the Lord is my helper. (Hebrews 13:5)*

Father in your name, we call on you today in the promise of your word.

We pray for those who are at this time struggling with the fears and concerns around this virus.

Father we act in belief and confidence in your promises, knowing that you have not given us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

We therefore embrace the promise of your word, even in the midst of this time of uncertainty.

We are still persuaded that your precious blood heals and makes whole.

We pray for our church family: we pray for those in our communities who may be feeling insecure and isolated.

We pray for our decision-makers, medical experts, leaders national and international.

Father we rest our cares in your hands, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Church of God of Prophecy in Great Britain

22 God of mercy, God of comfort, we come before you in this time of difficulty, mindful of human frailty and need, confused and struggling to find meaning in the face of suffering.

We are grateful that even as we share in the joy of Christ Jesus, we can also share abundantly in comfort in the midst of suffering.

For all who are in danger, trouble, or anguish, we ask the presence and strength of your Spirit.

Give all who suffer the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We pray for those who are suffering and can make no sense of tragedy.

Help them to turn to the One who embraces us in our lives even Jesus Christ, who lived and suffered among us.

Have mercy on your whole creation. Hasten the day when the kingdom of the world shall become your Kingdom, and by grace make us worthy to stand before you.

For all that is good in life, thank you, For the love of family and friends, thank you, For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you. Amen.

The Moravian Church of America

23 We turn to you, our Father, for we need your help.

Lord Jesus, as you have promised, be with us, whatever lies ahead.

Strengthen us, Holy Spirit, as we face this together.

We pray for our world and our country, as coronavirus threatens our lives and our livelihood, leaving many in lockdown, while key workers continue, despite the risk.

We pray for government leaders responding to medical and scientific advice, making tough decisions for the wellbeing of all.

We pray for all who serve on the frontline in the Health Service and in social care; facing increasing numbers, overstretched resources and distressing human need.

Bless those who are ill, those who are alone and afraid, those exhausted looking after their family, those worried for the vulnerable, those fearful for their finances, those shut into their fears.

Thank you for those who have returned from retirement to help, or joined the volunteer army.

Thank you for those working: to manufacture needed resources, to find a vaccine, to keep in contact with the isolated, to encourage others at this time.

Have mercy on us, O Lord. Give us faith, hope, and love. Hear our prayers, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Christians in Scotland

24 All this day, O Lord, let me touch
as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

Mary Sumner (1828-1921)
founder of the Mothers' Union

25 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.

The Catholic Bishops of Africa

26 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, England

27 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.

The Catholic Bishops of the Philippines

28 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**

29 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.

30 God of our days and times: come close to us in this hour.

Calm our hearts and minds, restore our spirits, and give us peace.
Lord, allay our fears, bolster our courage and our compassion, increase our capacity for love.

In this season, we have been made uncomfortable; our movements have been curtailed; we are inundated with often conflicting information; our minds are racing – but – we cling to your promise to be with us always.

We are your creation and our hearts can safely trust in you.
During our time of social isolation, help us to get closer to you.
Let compassion rise in us and send us an extra anointing of your love.
Allow us to hear your voice amid the cacophony of voices around us and restore our joy.

In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

**Revd Cynthia Belt,
Harwood Park and Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Elkridge, USA**

31 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

32 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

33 Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

World Peace Prayer

34 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)**

35 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, 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.

**Revd Gerardo Oberman,
The Reformed Church of Argentina**

36 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**

37 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

38 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**

39 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)**

40 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)

41 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

42 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.

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

43 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 others

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.

British Methodist Connexion

44 God of the present moment.

God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart.

Bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make us all equal to whatever lies ahead.

Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided.

For your will is health and wholeness. You are God and we need you. Amen.

**Washington Episcopal Diocese
(adapted from New Zealand)**

45 In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we are not 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 cannot 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

46 Gracious and loving God, give wisdom and strength to all those in our community and around the world, who are responding to the coronavirus – health professionals government officials, aged care providers, school leaders.

May those who mourn the loss of loved ones to the virus, be comforted.

May those in our community who are feeling anxious, find peace and reassurance.

May our congregations, and faith communities be places of compassion, attentive to those who are impacted by coronavirus.

May we be communities of empathy, love, and care, in all we face. Amen.

Uniting Church of Australia

47 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 to work 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 that have no 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.

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

Marquette Jesuit University, Milwaukee

48 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.

**Rev Dr Barbara Glasson
President of the Methodist Conference**

49 God our Father, we pray for those who are suffering, for those who are grieving, for those who are anxious, and for those who work tirelessly to care for the sick.

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ came into our world to heal us of all division and bring us life in abundance.

By the power of your Spirit help us strive together as one family of many nations to help those in greatest need during this crisis. Amen.

**Missio
Catholic Mission Agency**

50 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

51 Lord Jesus, you came into the world to heal our infirmities and to endure our sufferings. You went about healing all and bringing comfort to those in pain and need.

We come before you now in this time of illness asking that you may be the source of our strength in body, courage in spirit and patience in pain.

May we join ourselves more closely to you on the cross and in your suffering that through them we may draw our patience and hope.

Assist us and restore us to health so that united more closely to your family, the Church, we may give praise and honour to your name. Amen.

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver

52 Gracious Heavenly Father, Creator and Preserver of all things,

we come before Your throne of grace on behalf of our families and friends, ourselves and all in our world who feel the fear of contracting a new disease that is spreading quickly.

Strengthen our bodies and spirits, that we might be spared this sickness.

Give wisdom and knowledge to doctors, nurses and all who provide care for the sick and suffering as well as to our world's leaders who bear responsibility for their citizens.

If it is Your will, heal those who are suffering from infection and bring the spread of this virus to a swift end.

Throughout all days of trial, remind us of Your great love and the forgiveness and salvation earned for us by Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

53 Appreciative of the selfless actions and responses of hundreds of faith leaders, their Institutions and volunteers in mitigating hunger, food shortages, emotional distress, violence, and traumas as confinement prolongs,

We, people of faith, we turn to the Creator in such times of suffering and distress as we do in times of joy and celebration.

We, therefore, call upon all faithful and people of goodwill to join us in the prayer to curb the outbreak of the pandemic.

Let us pray to the Creator to grant us His mercy and to show us how to face the challenges posed by the impact of the COVID-19.

We pray for those who suffer from the virus and plead to the Creator for quick recovery of the affected and those who are bedridden.

We pray for all those who lost their precious life due to the virus and may their souls to rest in peace.

We pray for the medical professionals, caregivers, the cleaners, the essential services staff as well as the researchers who are working tirelessly to save lives.

We pray for many of the women who are not safe while in lockdown, and request that measures be put in place to protect and support women facing the increasing risk of domestic violence.

We pray together as citizens of the world in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and for its quick end and for the discovery of cures and treatments.

Global Ministries (extract)

54 Holy, Gracious, Loving God; Our times are in your hands, and these times have brought us to a strange moment. We read the news. We hear the stories.

We know of people who have either tested positive for the coronavirus or have been in a room with people who have tested positive. And we wonder.

We know that there is fear out there, and we ask you to help us to turn this fear, our fear, into an opportunity for your love.

We pray for all who have been affected by this illness, for those who are afraid, for all healthcare workers, for our hospital system, for all leaders who are making decisions that affect their people.

We pray for our community, and...

Guide us all, because we have not done this before and we are figuring out how to do it as we are doing it.

Lead us, bless us, fill us with your peace and with your presence so that our faith may always exceed our fear, and that we may be a part of the healing work that you are doing.

And we pray it all in your name. Amen.

Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

55 So we pray and we remember that:

Yes there is fear - But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation - But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying - But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness - But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death - But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now. Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic -
The birds are singing again, The sky is clearing, Spring is coming and we are always
encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the
empty square – SING.

Xavier Jesuit University, Ohio

56 God of life, you have promised to be with us every day, also in difficult days, like in times
like these.

Give us clarity in our minds, strength in our work and discernment, rest as we sleep,
peace in our minds.

Be with those who need help more than we do ourselves help us to see what we can
offer from your love.

Calm us... Amen.

World Council of Churches

57 Jesus, whose words, and works were one, help us,
whose actions so often betray our words and whose words
so often betray our actions,
to grow in truth and integrity as we follow you.
May we live your Good News, never fake news,
and so may your kingdom come. Amen.

**Jennie Hurd,
Student Christian Movement Friend**

58 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

59 Let us pray: In this time when we are all affected by the coronavirus, whether directly or indirectly, whether physically, biologically, psychologically, spiritually, and for many economically, it may be helpful to remember that we are in this together.

Jesus came among us in the first place, to show us the way to be right and reconcile with the God who is the creator of us all, and right and reconciled with each other as children of this one God who has created us all, and therefore as sisters, brothers, and siblings, one of another.

Jesus came to show us how to be in a relationship with God and in relationship with each other, came to show us how to live not simply as collections of individual self-interest, but how to live as the human family of God.

That is why he said love the Lord your God, love your neighbour as yourself. Because in that is hope for all of us to be the human family of God.

So look out for your neighbours, look out for each other. Look out for yourselves. Listen to those who have knowledge that can help to guide us medically and help to guide us socially.

Do everything that we can to do this together, to respond to each other's needs and to respond to our own needs. We ask this prayer in Jesus' Name.

**A meditation by Bishop Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church, USA**

60 Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you,
All things are dying: God never changes.

Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices. Amen.

Lord, grant that I may always allow myself
To be guided by You, always follow Your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will.

Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life,
I may do whatever You require of me.

Help me respond to the slightest prompting of Your Grace,

So that I may be Your trustworthy instrument for Your honour.
May Your will be done in time and in eternity by me, in me, and through me. Amen.

St Teresa of Ávila

61 God of Love, we turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives.

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

May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

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

That we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable.

May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

Healing God bring healing to those who are sick with the coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours.

We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities.

We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people.

We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

God of Wisdom, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

O God of creation and God of life, we, your people here in..., place ourselves and our world in your protection and love.

May your peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead. Amen.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Clogher

62 Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments.

Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine.

Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease.

Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Amen.

63 For all who have contracted coronavirus – We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable – We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety – We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety – We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those without adequate health insurance – We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status – We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world – We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers – We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort, and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

US Catholic Bishops' Conference

64 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, Urbi et Orbi meditation, 27 March 2020 (adapted)

65 God of life,
you have promised to be with us every day,
also in difficult days, like in times like these.

Give us clarity in our minds,
strength in our work and discernment,
rest as we sleep,
peace in our minds.

Be with those who need help
more than we do ourselves
help us to see what we can offer
from your love.

Word of Prayer from the WCC General Secretary

66 Holy God, as we continue to live in this time of responding to the pandemic of COVID-19, we come asking for strength and grace. It has not been easy for us to live in a state of physical distancing.
We cannot greet friends and loved ones, we cannot offer an embrace to comfort a handshake to greet a pat on the shoulders to encourage to keep ourselves and each other safe. We must keep apart.
Lord, we are unable to greet our elderly and seniors because we need to keep them safe.
Give to us the strength to keep each other safe.
Give to us the love that will seek to do the highest good for those who are vulnerable.
Give us the grace to seek for new ways to be social even as we keep distance.

When we feel overwhelmed and unable to go on, provide us for us the brother or sister who will be your channel of grace to the moment.

When we feel frustrated and impatient because we are tired of staying away from others, give to us the love that sees the need to keep each other safe.

We remember the medical professionals who even now continue to work for our health.

Give to them the gifts they need to do their work.

Give to them the strength to continue when things are hard.

Give to them the energy when the day is long. Keep them safe so that they may be able to continue.

Surround their families and keep those that they love within your safe keeping.

Help us, the people they serve, to be grateful for their service.

Stand beside those who have been tested positive for COVID-19, give to them peace to know that you are with them. Calm their anxiety, comfort them in their distress, assure them and their families that you will neither leave them nor forsake them.

Holy One, we know that the race is not for the swift.

And we sense that this race will be a marathon.

But in this race, remind us that we are not alone and that you have promised to provide the things we need. So, we run with perseverance mindful that you journey with us.

Amen.

67 God of life, God of compassion, as crisis is shaking our world, we turn to you with all our worries:
for our loved ones, for our societies, for jobs and economies,
and for how the most vulnerable among us will be affected.

Transform uncertainty and fear into love and care.
Give us courage, wisdom, and consolation.
Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray:
for the sick and those who are caring for them,
for the researchers who are working to find medicine and vaccine,
for those who must take difficult decisions that affect many,
for international cooperation in the service of justice and peace,
for spiritual leadership that is faithful to your will.

In your mercy, help us to hold on to what is right, true, and beautiful.
Through Jesus Christ, whom we have come to know as our Saviour and Healer. Amen.

**Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén,
Church of Sweden**

68 O loving God, we pray that you will give us courage and wisdom as we face the hard realities which confront us around the world today.

May those with gifts for human health and hope discover ways
which help us to end the threatening infections of coronavirus and restore our lives to a
new day.

Give to us, we pray, a profound sense of creative community,
as we care for each other, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Hold us in your arms, like a loving parent would,
as we journey into the future.

Call us towards deeper faith, O Christ, believing that you are with us.
And lift our hearts, O Holy Spirit, as we face each moment. Amen.

Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon, South Sydney Uniting Church

69 We pray to God who some call Mystery, beyond all definition.
When in the midst of uncertainty – may we know faith.
When in the midst of anxiety – may we know serenity.
When in the midst of stress – may we know calm.
When in the midst of fear – may we know trust.
When in the midst of bewilderment – may we know assurance.
When in the midst of confusion – may we know confidence.
When in the midst of pandemic – may we know peace.
When in the midst of whatever – may we know Love. Amen.

Rev John Wesley Oldham from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

70 Lord, our Refuge, we thank you for listening unfailingly to the cries of your people. You have been our anchor in the midst of this pandemic and you have constantly provided us with our needs and the hope to get through every day.

O God, we are praying for the front liners who have been facing this battle boldly. We pray for your continuing provision, especially of personal protective equipment to keep them safe, for test kits to save lives, and for greater government support to help them fight COVID-19.

Direct us, Lord, towards helping our fellow citizens and our front liners. May our leaders mirror you in being able to hear and answer the voices of the people, so that they can respond especially to the scarcity of medical resources and other programs to sustain and strengthen all medical practitioners.

Lord, protect us all during this pandemic. Hear our cries as we pray, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Hope and Light, Amen.

Ecumenical Uniting Youth from the Philippines

71 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.

The National Council of Churches in Australia

72 Come, Holy God,
Come, loving source of our life,
Come, healing Light.

Come, healing Light,
Source of our life,
Come, healing Light.

**Linda Jones
CAFOD**

73 God of storm and calm, your love is wider
than the oceans and loftier than the mountain peaks,
yet you reach to the depths of our pain and meet us in our deepest need.

Bless the people of [this land], protect the weak and vulnerable,
and encourage all her communities
to renew with courage their search for deep and lasting peace.

United Theological College, Bangalore, India

74 All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, Father
Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, Father
Forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, Father
Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, Father Forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, Father
Forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women, and children, Father Forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, Father Forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave
you. Amen.

Eternal God, in the stillness of the pre-dawn hours, as creation awakened welcoming
the rising sun, so too may you awaken our souls to welcome you into our midst.

With the passing minutes of this day, strengthen us so that we will not permit any event,
thought or spoken word to so deeply disturb us that it causes us to lose our focus.

Remind us throughout this coming day of the calm assurance which is ours through
your written Word:

"Be still and know that I am God." So then, Quiet us... Settle us... Still us...

Sri Lanka

75 Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.”
At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.
May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

From the Jesuit magazine *America*

76 Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.
Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.
Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.
Love compels us to 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 – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.
Let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

Christian Aid

77 Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.
Jesus Christ, heal us.

I look at a crucifix, which speaks of the love of our God who has come close, who has wanted to show his weakness until his death on the Cross, to accompany us, to guide us on the path to Salvation.

Thus, I wish to be close to each one of you, like most institutions today, are experiencing for the first time a global pandemic, which is affecting or will affect all our countries and therefore our persons, families and homes.

Let us pray that we understand how to take care of the planet by being responsible for making it healthy for everyone? As a result of the virus, our cities have less pollution and cleaner air.

Let us pray that we will we be able to transform this tragedy into an opportunity to improve our families in the face of this difficult situation and take care of the most vulnerable members?

Let us pray that we succeed in giving a positive meaning to our use of time and social networks?

Let us pray that we succeed in eliminating violence and discrimination against women as we try to overcome this pandemic? And that women, until now victims of those who consider them an object, will be able to be recognised for their maternal care and education to prevention, which are so key in this critical moment?

Let us pray for victims, the health workers, the authorities, the elderly, the families with their children. Amen.

**María Lía Zervino,
President, World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)
(adapted from a letter to members)**

78 Loving Lord, we pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

Think of some practical ways that you can show God's love and compassion at this time.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

Take a moment to pray for those in positions of influence at local, national and international levels.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and for all who are caring for them.

Pray particularly for any known to you personally, including those who work in the health profession.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of virus.

Consider if there is anything helpful you can do for those in this category – shopping or other errands?

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

Take any opportunity to reassure those who are feeling anxious, especially over unsubstantiated concerns

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. Amen.

Mothers' Union

79 *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. Amen.

Very Rev Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark (Church of England)

80 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.

Church of England



*Compiled by Rev Canon Cynthia Dowdle OBE (Anglican Chaplain, Liverpool Hope University)
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