

Prayers In a Time of Pandemic Crisis 2020

*These prayers were prepared and gathered by
CONFLUENCE - a Center for Spirituality and partner organization the Diocese of Missouri
to enable us to pray regularly in common voice as individuals, groups and parishes
as we face this time of world-wide Covid-19 spread.*

In Time of Calamity

O GOD, merciful and compassionate, who art ever ready to hear the prayers of those who put their trust in thee; graciously hearken to us who call upon thee, and grant us thy help in this our need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BCP (1928), p. 41

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP (1928) p. 45

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Help us to find faith to be the church of sharing, care, connection, kindness and love from wherever we are able.

Bring hope that you will make us the equal of 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.

New Zealand Prayer Book

O God our Creator, by whose mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only these things which you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all for whom we have prayed, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

The Book of Common Worship, Church of South India (adapted)

For the Nation

Lord God Almighty, who hast made all the peoples of the earth for thy glory, to serve thee in freedom and in peace:

Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance,

that we may use our liberty in accordance with thy gracious will;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who

liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God,

for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP, p. 814

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 the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p.231

When fear has come to stay, be present O Lord,
When times are troubled and so much seems lost,
Comfort us, O Lord, and strengthen us as we pray.

But most of all help us to remember
When clouds gather and doubt multiplies,
The words most often spoken
In various forms throughout your Holy Word:

‘Fear not’

(And wash your hands!) Amen

Jerry Cooper

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us O God, to trust your love and serve your purpose.

We hold in the Light of God’s healing those who are ill...

We hold in the Light of God’s love their families and care-givers...

We hold in the Light of God’s wisdom our medical community and public health officials...

We hold in the Light of God’s presence our neighbors... and ourselves...

Help us all know that in every storm and tumult there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you,
and that from this central heart of peace your compassion flows to make us
wise and loving expressions of your presence in the world. Amen.

Adapted from the NZ Prayer Book by Rob Voyle

In This Hour of Need

In this hour we turn to you, O Lord, in full knowledge of our frailty, our vulnerability, and our great need as your mortal creatures. We cry to you, as one human family, unsure of the path ahead, unequal to the unseen forces around us, frightened by the sickness and death that seem all too real to us now. Stir up your strength and visit us, O Lord; be our shield and rock and hiding place! Guide our leaders, our scientists, our medical community. Give them wisdom and fill their hearts with courage and determination. Make even this hour, O Lord, a season of blessing for us, that in fear

we find you mighty to save, and in illness or death, we find the cross to be none other than the way of life. All this we ask in the name of the One who bore all our infirmities, even Jesus Christ our Risen and Victorious Lord. Amen.

Adapted from prayer by Kate Sonderegger

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:

Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, p. 815