

# **JUNE 2020 PRAYERS FOR THE COVID CRISIS FROM THE WORLD-WIDE CHURCH COLLATED BY THE REVD CANON CYNTHIA DOWDLE OBE AND ULTAN RUSSELL**

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## **1. MENNONITE CHURCH USA STAFF (ADAPTED)**

We pray for all impacted by COVID:

- 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 do not know how they will make  
it if they get sick and cannot 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**

## **2. THE ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES BASED ON COVENANT DOCUMENT ON HIV/AIDS 8<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CAMEROON, 2003**

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 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. THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

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 & 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**

## **4. REVD DR CRAIG PHILLIPS, ARLINGTON EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE USA**

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." **Amen.**

## 5. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' OF THE PHILIPPINES

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.**

## 6. ADAPTED FROM AN EASTER ADDRESS BY GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE, SALVATION ARMY

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**

## 7. ADAPTED BY CAFOD (ENGLAND & WALES) FROM AN EBOLA PRAYER BY CARITAS GUINEA

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.**

## 8. MELANESIAN PRAYER

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 through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

## 9. TAIZÉ COMMUNITY, FRANCE - BROTHER ALOIS EXTRACT FROM AN EASTER MEDITATION

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.**

**10. REVD FLORENCE LI  
AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES**

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.**

**11. THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SINGAPORE**

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.**

**12. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND  
KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE**

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.**

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### 13. THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

*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, & through times of peril we lean into you, for 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**.

### 14. THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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 & 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.

### 15. ARCHDEACON CAROLE HUGHES AUCKLAND DIOCESE, NEW ZEALAND International Anglican Women's Network

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**

### 16. THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA (ADAPTED)

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 Corona Virus.

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**.

**17. PRAYER OF COURAGE  
CORYMEELA COMMUNITY NORTHERN IRELAND**

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**

**18. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES  
OF GOD IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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 gatherers" 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.**

**19. BASED ON A STATEMENT  
BY MYANMAR'S CARDINAL CHARLES BO**

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 so many 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 we ask this in Your Name . **Amen**

**20. REVD LEE HULL MOSES,  
THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, AMERICA AND CANADA**

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.**

## 21. THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

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.**

## 22. THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA (VIA THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WEBSITE)

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.**

## 23. REVD DR MANHONG MELISSA LIN, ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY, THE CHINA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

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.**

## 24. ADAPTED FROM FRIENDS HOUSE LONDON (QUAKER FAITH & PRACTICE 10.17)

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**

**25. BISHOP GREGORY CAMERON OF ST ASAPH  
THE CHURCH IN WALES**

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.

**26. PRAYER FROM PAKISTAN  
(VIA BRITISH METHODIST CONNEXION)**

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 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.

**27. THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY  
IN GREAT BRITAIN**

*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.**

**28. REVD DENISE LIERSCH, MODERATOR,  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA  
THE UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**

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.**

## 29. THE MORAVIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

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 & 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 WORLD PEACE PRAYER**

*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.*

*These prayers have been collated from material available on the web. They embrace prayers and reflections from a spectrum of traditions, denominations, and countries. Originally collated for Liverpool Hope University & the Mothers Union 2 prayers have been added to reflect this: Mary Sumner's & the World Peace Prayer.*

## 30. CHRISTIANS IN SCOTLAND

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 in to 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.**

### **MARY SUMNER (1828-1921) FOUNDER , THE MOTHERS' UNION**

*All this day, O Lord, let me touch  
as many lives as possible for thee;  
& 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.***