



22 March – Joining Together in Prayer

Various Christian leaders, including Archbishop Justin Welby, have called for Mothering Sunday to be a Day of Prayer as the world continues to face the Coronavirus outbreak.

To join with others in praying for our world today, why not take a few minutes – however long works for you – to use some of the pointers and prayers below? You don't need to pray for everything!

The following suggestion has also been made to Christians across our nation:

“As one action, we are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.”

1. Thanking God

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)

Give thanks to God:

- That our loving Father continues to reign in heaven, and that we can confidently pray to Him through our Saviour, Jesus Christ
- That He is our refuge, and by visible and invisible means He grants strength in our weakness
- That in this whole crisis the Government's clear aim is to save lives. That's not always true in every time and place
- For all those working in the health service, the police and for the millions of key workers who restock supermarket shelves, collect bins, drive buses and serve our country, working hard in the midst of the outbreak

2. Asking God in the big picture

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.”

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts. (Ps 46:4-6)

Spend some time making requests of your loving Father for his world:

- That the unbreakable city of God, the unshakeable kingdom where God helps his people – the new creation with Jesus, yet to come – would fill our hearts and minds, and give us hope
- That God would, through this crisis, “lift his voice” to draw unbelievers to him and melt their hearts
- That the spread of coronavirus would be dramatically halted, and the effects for those who get it be minimal
- For the Queen and her Government, under our PM Boris Johnson, to act wisely, lovingly, kindly and for the common good
- That Christians across the world would be filled with love for God and neighbour, and shine brightly as lights pointing towards Jesus Christ through word and deed
- For God to be glorified and known through all that is going on across the world

3. Asking God for our own needs

"Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth." (Ps 46:10)

Ask God to be at work in your life, in those whom you love, and in our church and city:

- That in the midst of stockpiling, everyone in our church family and city would have the food they need each day
- That God would search our hearts in this time of trial, help us confess our sins, forgive us and help us hope in Jesus
- That God would enable us to forgive any who have sinned against us, especially in this time of heightened tension
- That in the midst of isolation, fear or anxiety, or concern for those we love, that we would "be still", know that God is God, and be encouraged that he reigns
- That we would be strengthened to ask for help where we need it, and give help to those around us as we are able
- That we would exalt God in every moment, living for Jesus, knowing we have His Spirit at work in us, instead of turning to temptations and sins

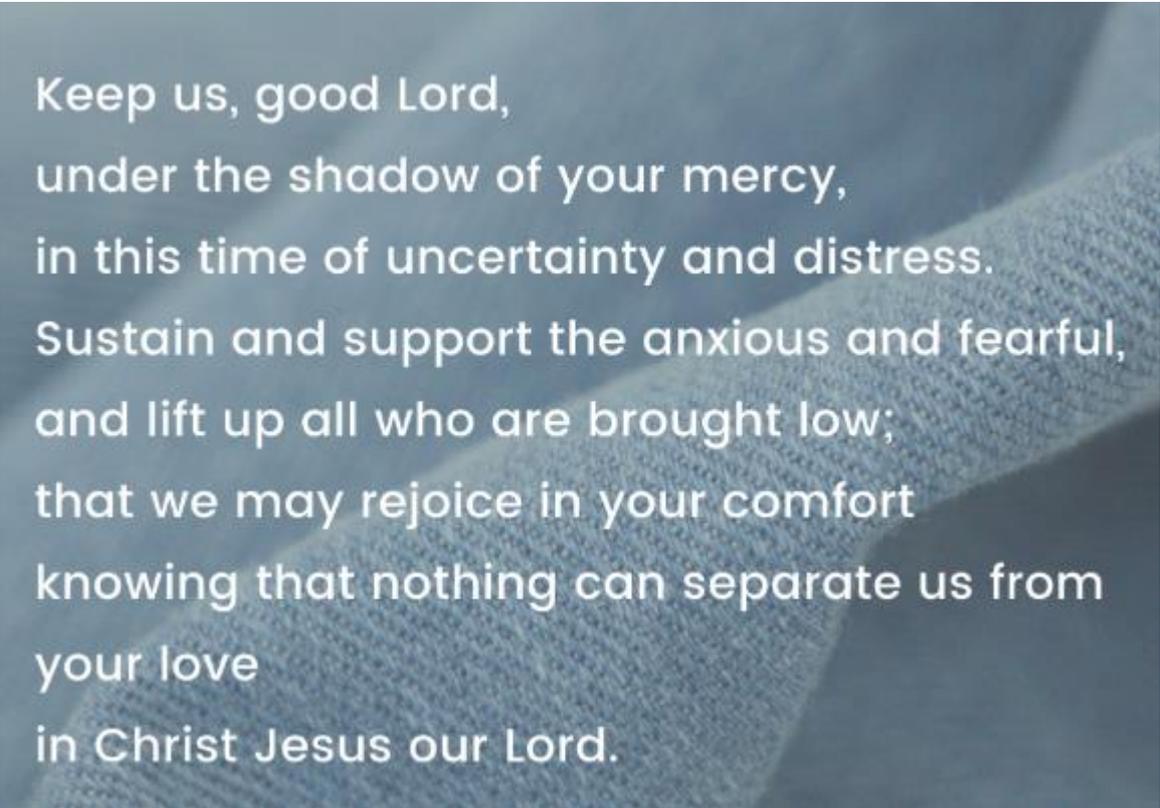
4. Join in with prayers others are praying across the world

Eternal God, whose son Jesus Christ bore our grief and carried our sorrows, hear us as we pray for those in distress:

the hungry and the homeless;
the incapacitated and the handicapped;
the mentally afflicted and depressed;
the sick and the dying;
the aged, the lonely, and the bereaved.

Help us, O Lord, who offer these prayers, to bear the sufferings of others as we seek to minister to them in your name, demonstrating your love and bringing your grace to bear in their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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.