

Readings and Prayers for use during the Coronavirus Pandemic

For other resources and updated information on what is available to live stream etc, go to : <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;
(Psalm 46)

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you
(1 Peter 5:7)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 91 (extract)

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold

There are many other psalms which express anguish, longing for God to act and hope in the Lord. (Pss 16; 27; 34; 57; 86; 103; 121; 130; 139)

A prayer for calm

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;
Keep me safe, keep me from harm;
let all the tumult within me cease,
enfold me Lord in your peace.

A prayer for these days

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.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are working in our National Health Service at this time – on
the front line or behind the scenes -
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you
are feeling this way)*.
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything
today.

Amen.

Bringing it all together

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,

and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our
Lord. Amen

Being thankful

And finally remember all that there is to be thankful for, among them ...

- Spring – longer days – chance to be in open air
- Gardens and so much green space around us
- Water – clean and plentiful for drinking and washing hands, clothes etc
- Soap!
- Our village community – all seeking to offer help to those in need
- Families and friends
- Safe and secure homes
- Telephones
- Electronic communication/social media
- Technology
- Pets and children
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The Prayer of General Thanksgiving from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people;
We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this
life;
but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world

by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end.

Amen.