

Prayers for all during this time of COVID-19

Adapted from the [pastoral letter](#) to the PC(USA)

God, our refuge and strength,
these are truly trying times for all of us
as we face a rapidly spreading virus,
with panic buying that has left grocery shelves nearly empty
and supplies in great demand.

We have seen the worst in people and the best.

Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ
and Christ's promise to never leave us.

We are holding one another in prayer.

Like the rest of the country,
our Presbyterian communities are physically separated,
but we are still deeply connected
through our common humanity, spirituality,
and strong faith in you, our God. **Amen.**

*—The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), and the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett,
President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency*

A Call to Prayer from the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

We pray for healing for those who are infected,
in China and in all the places where the virus has spread.

We pray for all who already have lost loved ones to the illness
and those who will yet suffer such loss.

We pray for doctors, nurses and aides providing medical care,
for insight in their caring, and for their health and well-being.

We pray for wisdom for the medical and scientific experts
who are desperately seeking ways to control the spread of the virus.

We pray for public officials who must make the hard decisions
about the quarantining of those who may have been exposed to the virus,
and we pray for all those for whom those decisions feel like unjust imprisonment.

We lift up the Christian church in China and our partners throughout the region
as they seek to bring Christ's healing presence and peace.

We pray for God to keep us alert to the threats posed by such a worldwide crisis,
remembering the millions of God's children who live in places
where the availability of medical care is meager or nonexistent.

May God open our hearts, our financial resources and our political will,
so that the vision of a better future can become a reality for all of God's children.

In the Providence of the God who created us,

in the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ who redeems us,

and in the Power of the Holy Spirit through whom God's will is done. **Amen.**

Prayers for helpers

A Prayer for Chaplains

Glorious God,
you call us to love and to serve,
not only with words, but also in presence and actions.
Lord, you surround us completely in time, in space and in spirit.
No matter where we go,
you journey with us and use us to reveal your grace and mercy.
During this time of testing from the novel coronavirus,
we pause to lift your beloved who serve as chaplains.
Whether they serve in the military,
in health care, in hospice,
in palliative care, in prisons,
with first responders, in commercial industry
or another institutional setting,
guide and protect them and magnify your grace through them.

Through your chaplains, open the eyes of those who fail to see your presence.
Through your chaplains, encourage souls overcome with fear and worry.
Through your chaplains, refresh those wearied from devotion
to the works of healing, protecting, providing and defending.
Through your chaplains, assuage the anguish of death.
Through your chaplains, give hope
during joy and sorrow,
chaos and calm,
success and failure,
rest and exhaustion.

Jehovah Jireh — provide your chaplains with endurance
and protect them when they serve in heart-wrenching, anxious and dangerous places.
Give your chaplains wisdom to know when to be socially distant
and when to be physically present,
always connected to the precious soul you have placed in their path.

Lord, provide your chaplains with words of comfort and truth,
whether they sit beside families of loved ones,
staffs of institutions or leaders of people.
May they effuse the peace that comes only from you.
Encourage your chaplains to embrace their significance
as they help all people overcome during this national and global challenge.
Embolden chaplains to persevere in their essential calling.
Gracious God, we give thanks for your chaplains. **Amen.**

— *Lyman Smith, CAPT, CHC, USN, Retired Director of Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies*

Prayer for Health Care Workers

Compassionate God,
from the shores of the river Jordan to the steps of the Temple Mount,
you have cared for the well-being of your people.
Your healing teaches us your compassion for our frailty.
Thank you for caring for us no matter our status in this world.

We ask your blessing on those who emulate you
as they provide the ministry of healing to all those in need.
Guide, bless and encourage your faithful health care servants
who willingly jeopardize their own, and their families', health and safety
to confront sickness and disease.
Enable them to relieve suffering and assist in the healing process.

Lord, you loved us enough to walk in our midst
on a disease-filled earth.
Even now, abide in with us
and surround all engaged in the healing sciences and arts.
Bless them as they labor for you
in stressful, anxious and sometimes threatening settings.
Keep them close in your loving embrace.

Guide researchers as they seek greater understanding of your universe
and develop vaccines and treatments that will reduce suffering and death.
Enable suppliers who ensure materials and equipment are available as needed
using creativity as they sometimes seek to do more with less.
Encourage the families of health care workers
as they support them in their call, knowing that through their loved ones,
lives are saved and your tenderness is known.

Provide your health care servants rest
during wearisome hours of constant demand.
Dispense comfort in moments of loss or setback.
Grant peace that goes beyond human understanding.

In our present surroundings that tempt us to despair,
may we all come together as part of your global community
and embrace the love of Christ for all precious souls.
Help us overcome our fears
and unite across all borders of every type
to share, manufacture, support and supply
knowledge, equipment and resources.
Your kingdom is a place of plenty.

Let us live in your abundance knowing you provide enough for all.
In your mercy, Lord, grant health.
Bless those you have called to be your hands and feet in healing and the provision of care.
May they always know how thankful we are for their gifts, service and sacrifice.
Hear our prayer, O Lord. **Amen.**
— *Lyman Smith, CAPT, CHC, USN, Retired Director of Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies*

For the Sick and Those Giving Care

Faithful Healer of the sick,
in your loving mercy,
embrace N. in *her/his* time of need.
Guide the nurses, doctors,
and others who attend *her/him*.
Use their skills
to restore N. to health and joy
for the service of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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For Those Who Work for Healing

God of compassion,
who in Jesus Christ healed the sick,
bless all who continue your work of healing.
Enhance their skills, and deepen their understanding,
that through their ministry
those who suffer may be restored to fullness of health,
for the sake of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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For Those in Medical Services

Merciful God,
your healing power is everywhere about us.
Strengthen those who work among the sick;
give them courage and confidence in everything they do.
Encourage them when their efforts seem futile
or when death prevails.
Increase their trust in your power
even to overcome death and pain and crying.
May they be thankful for every sign of health you give,
and humble before the mystery of your healing grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Prayers for peace

For an Inclusive Church

How great is your love, Lord God,
how wide is your mercy!
Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life
with rules or doctrines that you dismiss;
but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with affection,
so that your church may never exclude secret friends of yours,
who are included in the love of Jesus Christ,
who came to save us all. **Amen.**

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“God who holds us in our anxiety”

God of grace and mercy,
be present with us as we face an unknown future
and as we walk paths untrodden.
In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves,
help us to know and be assured that you are sovereign,
that you are all-knowing,
all-powerful and ever-present.
We know you are a good God who holds us in our anxiety and distress
and who has a plan for our future.
Calm our hearts and minds and give us hope in you,
our only certain hope.
We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

— *The Rev. David Loleng, Director of Church Financial Literacy and Leadership, Presbyterian Foundation*

For Peace in the Church

God of our lives,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
we have been drawn together by one baptism
into one faith, serving one Lord and Savior.
Do not let us tear away from one another
through division or hard argument.
May your peace embrace our differences,
preserving us in unity,
as one body of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Prayers for hope

Prayer of the Day, the Second Sunday in Lent

Almighty God,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
Give us faith to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to bear our cross,
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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We Belong to Each Other. We Belong to You.

The Bible says, “where two or three are gathered.”
And many, in this moment, will gather no closer than six feet.
The Bible says, “they were all gathered together in one place.”
And we do not know when we will be together next.
Triune God, you exist in eternal relationship.
You are One and yet are three.
In a time of isolation, draw us closer to this mystery.
May it remind us of your truth:
even in physical isolation, we are never truly alone.
Your love links us together, making us a people.
For the Bible also says:
We belong to each other. We belong to you.
Even now. Especially now. **Amen.**
— Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings

For Pastors and Others Giving Support

God our refuge, shelter us under your wings
as we kneel before you in grief and pain.
We pray for all those who have lost
a beloved child, parent, sibling, lover, or friend . . .
those who have witnessed horror . . .
those who are wounded in body or spirit . . .
for each is a child made in your image.
We pray for ourselves, O Lord.
Restore our hope, and mend our hearts,
even as we weep with grief and tremble with anger.

Give us strength to support the brokenhearted,
your grace to be confident in your presence here,
and your light to find our way through the shadows,
that we may be bearers of your light
to all we encounter;
in the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

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A Prayer in the Midst of the Coronavirus

God of labyrinthian journeys,
thank you for walking with us
through paths that lead to places that center us,
not confusing and blocking our progress like mazes.
Thank you for being present with us,
even when we forget you are with us.
Thank you for the witnesses we have to your faithfulness and love
for generation after generation.
Thank you, God, for being with Sarai and Abraham
as they traveled to places they did not choose,
lands foreign to them and challenges they did not design.
Thank you, God, for Shiprah and Puah, the midwives to the Hebrews,
who risked their lives to make sure new life thrived,
letting their commitment to you and to the community take priority.
Thank you, God, for being with Naomi and Ruth
as they return to Bethlehem after the death of loved ones,
for their courage to stay steadfast to one another and to you,
and the abundant harvest they found where there once was famine.
Thank you, God, for the gift of Mary, who anointed Jesus with costly perfume,
reminding us that caring for the body of Christ is primary for us all.
Finally, we give thanks for leaders in our midst throughout time
who have showed us the way forward as prophets, preachers, pastors and shepherds.
Journey with us, O God, in the tumult, twists and turns of this coronavirus crisis,
and lead us to a place centered on your love, trust, promise and new life that conquers all.
In the name of the one who created us, redeems us, and sustains us, our One God. **Amen.**
— *The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty, Senior Director of Theological Education Funds Development,
Presbyterian Foundation*

Prayers for those suffering

For Those Who Are Sick, Suffering, or Dying

God of heaven and earth,
through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us
when we pray to you in his name.
Confident in your love and mercy
we offer our prayer.
Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.
Make the sick whole [especially N., N.].
Give hope to the dying [especially N., N.].
Comfort those who mourn [especially N., N.].
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,
not only those we know and love
but also those known only to you,
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. **Amen.**

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For Healing

Compassionate God,
your Son gives rest to those weary with heavy burdens.
Heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit.
Lift up the depressed.
Befriend those who grieve.
Comfort the anxious.
Stand with all victims of abuse and violence.
Uphold those who live with addiction.
Fill us all with your Holy Spirit
that we may bear each other's burdens
and so fulfill the law of Christ.
God of mercy, hear our prayer. **Amen.**

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For Those Present at a Traumatic Event

God of the ages, you have always been faithful to your people.
Come to us now, we pray!
Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering.
Give strength and skill to those who are working
to save and to heal.
Give us your peace that passes all understanding
in these moments of shock and sorrow,

and open our eyes, hearts and hands
to the movements of your Spirit,
that we might be comforted and comfort others
in the name of Christ, our healer and our light. **Amen.**

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Jesus Christ, the Great Physician

God of compassion,
you have given us Jesus Christ, the great physician,
who made the broken whole
and healed the sick.

Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts,
and restore us to wholeness of life,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Hope Rooted

The lives of your people are plagued with despair, O God.
War and drought cause millions to flee and leave behind everything;
children are climate activists because their elders don't see;
disasters destroy the lives of Puerto Ricans again, and again and again;
parents weep at funerals for yet another Parkland, Sandy Hook or Columbine ...

And though we daily notice the cold, dark shadow of death nearby,
your people are not afraid because we know that you are here, too.
Hold us up when we feel we can stand no longer,
and give us hope that is rooted in the promise of eternal life. **Amen.**

— Jon Reinink, Church Support Associate, Mission Engagement and Support

For Healing

By your power, great God,
our Lord Jesus healed the sick
and gave new hope to the hopeless.
Though we cannot command or possess your power,
we pray for those who want to be healed
(especially for N.).
Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows,
and make broken people whole again.
Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that,
though death is against us,
you are for us,
and have promised renewed and risen life

in Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

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For Health Restored

Almighty God,
we rejoice that, by the power of your Spirit,
you have given the gift of health and wholeness
to your servant N.
In thanksgiving we renew our commitment to you,
so that health regained
may provide opportunities for service
in the helping and healing work of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

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For a Sick Child

Jesus, friend of little children,
bless N. with your healing love
and make *her/him* well. **Amen.**

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For Parent(s) of a Sick Child

Merciful God,
enfold N. [name of child] in the arms of your love.
Comfort N. and N. [parent(s)] in their anxiety.
Deliver them from despair,
give them patience to endure
and guide them to choose wisely for N. [name of child],
in the name of him who welcomed little children,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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In the Hospital

Merciful God,
your Spirit hovers over us and all our troubled world,
interceding for us with sighs too deep for words.
Help us now.
Chaos and destruction have shattered our lives.
Stay with us as we wait

for news, for healing, for help.
Give us strength and courage to bear the unknown.
Uphold us with your sustaining grace,
and show us your care
through neighbors, strangers, and friends.
Sustain all those whom we love
with your healing and your peace.
Guide the hands and strengthen the hearts
of medical professionals as they work to save.
Let those who have been injured know that you are near;
give them rest from pain and fear,
and restore their hope,
we pray in the name of Christ, our light. **Amen.**

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For Those Who Are Bereaved

1 Holy God,
Lord of life and death,
you made us in your image
and hold us in your care.
We thank you for your servant N.,
for the gift of *her/his* life,
and for the love and mercy *she/he* received from you
and gave to us.
Especially we praise you for your love in Jesus Christ,
who died and rose from the grave
to free us from death
and give us life eternal.
Grant that when our time on earth is ended,
we may be united with all the saints
in the joy of your eternal home,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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2 God our creator,
your Holy Spirit prays for us
even when we do not know how to pray.
Send your Spirit to comfort us in our need and loss,
and help us to commend N. to your merciful care;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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