

## **A Prayer for Our World During Pandemic**

Loving and All Powerful God,

Because you are the way, truth, and life, we ask for your presence in the midst of a world that is suffering, and for your deep, abiding love to work powerfully to save. Show us the way through this valley of the shadow of death, and give us courage, faith, and trust in you to be with us even when we cannot feel it.

In places where the resources exist but corrupt government steals or delays things from getting where they need to go, we cry out for justice and that you will make things right.

In places where misinformation, misunderstanding, and the lies of Satan are hurting the vulnerable and causing increased suffering and death, we cry out for your light and truth to root out the darkness and expose and eradicate evil.

In places where there is not enough money to treat the sick, Lord, we cry out for you to move powerfully in the hearts of Christians in positions of power and influence, and for generosity - not greed nor fear - to reign supreme during this time of great need.

In places where people are trying to do the right by your standards of kindness, gentleness, wisdom, grace, and love, please heap upon them your blessing and strength to persevere, especially the caregivers, the nurses, doctors, and everyone in the healthcare system being pushed past their limits.

In places where long hours and exhaustion are the norm, give energy, and deep, restorative sleep. Connect the over-worked to social supports that can inspire, and emotionally bolster them. Give the tired and distressed your perfect peace and rest in the midst of chaos and extraordinary demands.

In places where difficult decisions are being made, give wisdom and courage, to those treating patients, those making decisions about how to schedule staff, and those deciding how to organize resources and treat the sick.

In places of isolation, be it homes, ICUs, or locations far from medical resources, Lord Jesus make your presence known in beautiful and miraculous, tangible and healing ways. Open our eyes to see you with us and open our hearts to know deep inside that you love us, and are working powerful to save.

In places of despair, we cry out for hope. Lord, you redeem! So redeem this suffering and struggle and frustration and grief – transform us, and renew us, and create in us a new heart and a right spirit – you are the God who resurrects the dead and we ask you today to bring us your life everlasting.

Jesus Christ, this has been a long pandemic and like the deer pants for the stream our souls thirst for you. Be for us cool, refreshing, life-giving water, the spring bubbling up in the desert, a never-ending source of life. Help us to know you in ever-deepening ways and draw near to you as you draw near to us. As we cry out, please hear us, and answer our prayers, and make your holy spirit dwell richly in our midst and with those who are suffering around the world.

In the name of our saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

*Written by Christine Ivy, Youth and Discipleship Associate Pastor*

### **A prayer before going to sleep**

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.  
- Church of South India

### **A Prayer for the Overwhelmed and Discouraged**

Dear Jesus,  
When we look around us at the waves and feel ourselves sinking,  
    Help us to turn back to you to lift us up, and set us back on solid ground.  
You are not overwhelmed;  
    You have overcome the world.  
Help us to find ourselves in you;  
    Our truest place of belonging  
    – our home and place of rest –  
    Is in you, Jesus, our Prince of Peace,  
When the lies of the evil one try to tear us away from you,  
    Speak your word and may your Holy Spirit remind us of scripture  
    against temptations to discouragement and despair.

Remind us that our identity and security and worth are **not** in

- The number in our bank account
- The grades we were given in school
- The titles or roles we hold
- The people we know
- The state of our relationships
- Our accomplishments
- Our failures
- Our age
- Our weight
- Our health
- Our productivity
- Our circumstances
- The state of our home (*Cleanliness is not next to godliness, because mess and dirt are not something that can separate us from your love.*)

Lord Jesus, no matter where we find ourselves today, open our hearts to your loving voice.

You define us because you created us,  
and you define the way things really are.  
Your word is truth and you have called us dearly beloved.  
You look upon us with kindness, patience, and delight.  
You have called us friend,  
and you are closer to us than a brother.  
Our salvation is not dependant on our good works  
nor the strength of our convictions  
But on your love  
Which never fails.  
Whether our day looks like  
Struggling to get out of bed  
Or climbing a mountaintop  
( Only to find we have to do it again tomorrow),  
God, free us from shame or guilt that keeps us from finding hope in you.

We are free in you, because you forgive  
and you clothe us in your righteousness.  
You are the saviour, we are not;  
Yet you invite us to join you in your mission.

*For individuals.*

God, you created me and gave me my limits, and living beyond them is unhealthy for my body, soul, and spirit. Within my limited energy is the ability to do what you have called me to, so help me to see clearly what I am called to today, and help me to focus on doing your will.

*For families and communities.*

It is easy to set unrealistic expectations for myself and others, trying to live up to standards that are beyond what you want and unhealthy for me and those around me. Forgive us, and help us to forgive. Transform us, renew our minds, and help us be singularly guided by You, marked by acts of kindness and grace towards ourselves and each other.

*For everyone.*

Help us to have the wisdom to know when to show up, and when to say “no” for the right reasons, and help us to truly rest when we need it (without guilt).

God, because it is so hard for us to do these things on our own power, we ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit, you help us to turn to prayer frequently. Help us to read or listen to your word every day. Help us to sing your praises even at home, and worship you every day of the week.

Our hope is in you, and you are faithful.

Lord, you are mighty and willing to save.  
Thank you & Amen.

Christine Ivy, Youth and Discipleship Associate Pastor