

## PREPARED PRAYER SUGGESTIONS DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19

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**If you are someone who appreciates prepared prayers, here are some COVID-19-themed prayers from leaders of the Presbyterian Church, USA:**

**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*

### **Prayers for helpers**

#### ***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 us 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 hope**

### ***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

### ***“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

### ***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*

***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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## Prayers for those who are ill or 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***

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 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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***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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