

A PRAYER IN TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors. Amen.
(Author: Unknown)

The Hurting Places

There is a world of hurt around me today,
And my heart fills with pain.
Sometimes I hear myself saying,
'All I can do is pray'.
And then I remember that praying
Is no small thing.
Sometimes it is the only thing,
The one true thing for this hurting world.
Healing God, send your wholeness,
Loving Christ, your strength,
Holy Spirit, your comforting presence,
To all who hurt,
To all who struggle,
To all who mourn. Amen
(Source: Beth A. Richardson, *Christ beside me, Christ within me*)

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are
serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and
decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who
are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our
hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**
(Source: National Council of Churches in Australia)

Social distancing is a privilege. It means you live in a house large enough to
practise it. Hand washing is a privilege too. It means you have access to
running water. Hand sanitisers are a privilege. It means you have money to
buy them. Lockdowns are a privilege. It means you can afford to be at home.
Most of the ways to ward the Corona off are accessible only to the affluent.
In essence, a disease that was spread by the rich as they flew around the
globe will now kill millions of the poor. All of us who are practising social
distancing and have imposed a lockdown on ourselves must appreciate how
privileged we are. Many Indians won't be able to do any of this.
(Facebook post attributed to an Indian doctor)

N.T.Wright article, '[Christianity offers no answers about the Coronavirus. It's not supposed to](#): It is no part of the Christian vocation to be able to explain
what's happening and why. In fact, it is part of the Christian vocation not to
be able to explain – and to lament instead. As the Spirit laments within us,
so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence
and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new
possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding, new hope.

*These prayers and reflections from various sources were accessed from the
resources of Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide*