

A PRAYER RESPONSE TO COVID-19 BY SA CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you as part of the global Body of Christ. Together with our brothers and sisters from around the world, we ask you to protect us from the spread of the coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful; let this be our prayer –

[Response] *“Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.” (Psalm 57:1)*

Jehovah Shalom, Lord of Peace, we remember those living in coronavirus hotspots and those currently in isolation. May they know your presence in their isolation, your peace in their turmoil and your patience in their waiting. Prince of Peace, you are powerful and merciful; let this be our prayer –

[Response] *“May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.” (Psalm 79:8)*

God of all Comfort and Counsel, we pray for those who are grieving, reeling from the sudden loss of loved-ones. May they find your fellowship in their suffering, your comfort in their loss, and your hope in their despair. We name before you those known to us who are vulnerable and scared - the frail, the sick and the elderly. *[pause]* God of all Comfort, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

[Response] *“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:10)*

Jehovah Rapha, God who heals, we pray for all medical professionals dealing daily with the intense pressures of this crisis. Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion upon compassion as they care. We thank you for the army of researchers working steadily and quietly towards a cure - give them clarity, serendipity and unexpected breakthroughs today. Would you rise above this present darkness as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in your rays. May this be our prayer –

[Response] *“Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17)*

God of all Wisdom, we pray for our leaders, both spiritual and secular. Furthermore we pray for the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders too - heads of schools, hospitals and other institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain vital institutions through this time of turmoil. God of all Wisdom and Counsel, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

[Response] *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear” (Psalms 46:1-2)*

May we be blessed by the words of Psalm 91: “Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.” (Ps. 91:3-7)

[Response] *“Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.”* (Psalm 4:1)

May *El Shaddai*, the Lord God Almighty who loves us, protect us. May Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for us to save us and reconcile us to the Father and to one another, make us one. And may the Holy Spirit who broods over the chaos and fills us with his presence, use us to serve others at this time for the glory of His Name.

[Response] *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* (2 Timothy 4:18)

Adapted, with gratitude, from a prayer by Pete Greig and 24-7 Prayer International (www.24-7prayer.com/coronavirusprayer).

