

Thank you Lord that you are the Prince of peace. Thank you Lord that you bring peace not conflict. Thank you Lord for the peace that only you can give: the peace that really does pass all understanding because it's a peace that is different from any peace that the world can bring.

Prayers during this time of COVID-19.

The Lord reigns! Lord we thank you so much for this truth, that even when things seem totally out of control You are in control and nothing happens that is not part of your will and purpose.

Thank you for the technology that allows us to meet together at this time. Help us learn to use it wisely. Thank you that we can see and hear each other by this means and worship together even though we are far apart.

We pray for the leaders of the world, for the leaders of nations, regions and cities. We ask that they may have the humility to look to You for guidance and help. May they use their power wisely and unselfishly and for the good of all people.

We pray for all people, that we and they may have patience in this time of confinement and lockdown. We remember especially those confined in hotel rooms or small apartments with no room to get away from each other for a time. Please help husbands and wives to be patient and gentle with each other and with their children. May they find ways of stimulating and helping their children with school work and learn to enjoy playing with their children.

We ask your blessing on all scientific researchers, battling to find ways of testing huge numbers of people and means of both treating the virus and making a suitable and efficient vaccine against it. Thank you for the international spirit of co-operation between scientists, please bless their efforts.

Thank you for all those brave doctors, nurses, porters, cleaners, ambulance drivers etc who are in the front line and who risk their lives and those of their families. May they have all the protection they need to be kept as safe as possible. Bless their work and please give them the physical, emotional, and spiritual stamina they so desperately need. We pray for those who sometimes have to make life or death decisions. Please guide them by your Spirit and protect them from the guilt and self-recriminating that they may feel now or in the future.

We pray for those who are in hospital and are gravely ill, may they have courage and strength to keep fighting and deep down the awareness of your loving arms around them.

Give patience and trust to all who are fearful either for themselves or for their loved ones. May they know your presence, peace and comfort. We remember especially those who may have to say goodbye as a loved one is taken to hospital, knowing they may never see them again. Lord please stand by them in your love and power. Please comfort all who have been bereaved, especially the families of those who have died because they have been caring for others. We ask that those who have the job of dealing with more bodies than they have ever seen before, will do so with respect and care, knowing that each was a human person like them.

May all on the front line know the healing of memories and have the real physical

emotional and psychological help they will need.

Finally we rejoice in the knowledge that You Lord are in control and your purposes are always for good and to bring many to know and love you. May we all grow in faith and trust and find ways to encourage and care for others in a new way.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.....In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Hallelujah! Romans 8 vv 28 and 37-39.