



**Further Prayer
Resources
for use at home
July 2020 and onwards**

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Introduction

It is now over three months since we were able to come together as a church family, and whilst there are some moves forward with opening the building for private prayer and potentially having small services with some restrictions in the near future, things are still so very different to how we remember, and will likely remain so for some time. For those who are shielding, or who are particularly vulnerable to Covid 19, the moves forward may feel like they leave you with incredibly difficult choices of whether to engage with this or to stay home. We want to assure you all of our love for you, whatever you decide over the next few weeks and months. Together or apart we remain the family of Christ Church.

For some the last three months may have been a time of blessing and peace as the pace of life has slowed, for others it has been incredibly difficult for so many reasons, juggling of home-schooling and changes to work, financial concerns, and grief

and bereavement are ever present concerns for many. This booklet therefore is an update of the one that we sent out at the start of lockdown, but comes with the same reminder – that God is with us in all situations, whether we are conscious of his presence or not. Remembering this, and relying on him in prayer, can help us to keep going. Whether prayer comes easily to you or you struggle to pray we hope that you will find something in this booklet to enable you to notice God with you and to draw near to him.

We still, as we said at the start of this time, remain together and remain community. We remain the church of God and the body of Christ in this place, and hopefully as we pray the prayers in this booklet we will feel closer together, even if we still cannot be together in the way we would like to be.

Specific prayers about Covid-19

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to
health;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For if you are ill or isolated

O God, help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe
that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer to remind us who we are

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

Barbara Glasson President of the Methodist Conference

Prayers with children

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill.

They are not allowed to go to school
or come over to play.

I'm sad because I miss them.

They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.

Please be close to them.

Please be with the people who are looking after them.

Please help them to get better
and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,

you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover
the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
Tonight we pray especially for (family or friends)
and the people of (country or place).
Please give skill and wisdom
to all who are caring for them.
Amen.

I can pray...a scavenger hunt

Matthew 7 v 7

"Ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find.
Knock, and the door will open for you."

The Bible tell us that we should be searchers – seeking to know God better and draw closer to Him. Why not practice searching by looking for these items around your house and using them to inspire your prayers.



Indoor prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find each of these items. Here is a prayer you can say for each item as you find them.



A photo of family or friends

Dear God, we pray for the people in this photo, thank you that you love and care for them. Help them to know you more.

A spoon

Dear God, we thank you that you provide the food we need each day. We thank you for our local foodbanks who are helping to feed the hungry.



A cuddly toy

Dear God, we pray for all those who are lonely or feel isolated while we cannot meet freely. Help them to know your love and comfort.



A pencil

Dear God, thank you for all those working in education who are finding ways to teach even though they cannot meet with their classes in person.



Soap

Dear God, we pray for all those working to protect us from Coronavirus and keep us safe. We pray especially for those working in hospitals and searching for a cure.



A clock

Dear God, we pray for patience as we wait for all the restrictions to be lifted. Help us to trust in you and your perfect timing.

Scavenger Junk Modelling

You will need: Any craft materials you have around the house and any junk/recycling that is clean and safe (no sharp edges)

Every week we throw lots of things away in our homes. Why not use some of the rubbish that you would normally throw away to create your own junk model or art project.



Ask, Seek, Knock

We can be seekers, not just of objects but of God! We can seek to know more about God and spend more time talking and listening to Him. These verses from the Bible remind us that when we pray and seek God, He hears and answers our prayers.

1 John 5 v 14-15 - And this is the boldness we have in God's presence: that if we ask God for anything that agrees with what he wants, he hears us. If we know he hears us every time we ask him, we know we have what we ask from him.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Depend on the Lord and his strength; always go to him for help.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - Then if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.



All Bible verses are taken from the [New Century Version \(NCV\)](#) The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)

I can pray...all over my house!

Together @ Home

Isaiah 32v18

"My people will live in peaceful places and in safe homes and in calm places of rest.

The Bible teaches us that God provides for us and keeps us safe. Why not use the safety of your house as a place to pray for some of those in the world who are struggling at the moment.

Everybody's house is different so if you don't have one of the rooms in your home just use the room that best suits the prayer!



A prayer in the bedroom

Take a moment to pray for anybody who doesn't have a safe place to sleep at night.



Thank God for all the hotels that have taken in the homeless during lockdown.

Pray for all those working to find safe homes for people to stay in.

A prayer in the kitchen

Take a moment to pray for all those keyworkers who are making sure that food is still being prepared, transported and sold during lockdown.



Pray for the foodbank and all those charities helping people to access food and supplies.

Ask God to help all those who are struggling to afford food to feed themselves and their families.

A prayer in the dining room

Take a moment to pray for those families who are isolated in their homes together.



Ask God to draw them closer to one another and Him during this time of being together at home.

A prayer in the bathroom

While you are in the bathroom... wash your hands and then take a moment to pray for all working for the NHS and emergency services.



Pray for all those who are working to find a cure for the Coronavirus that God would give them wisdom and help them bring an end to the spread of the virus.

A prayer in the living room

Take a moment to pray for all those who appear on the screens of our home.



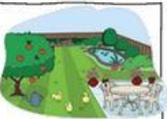
Ask God to guide the leaders of the countries of the world as they make difficult decisions to protect everybody.

Thank God for all those who lead and work for the church and are finding new ways to connect with their congregations.

Thank God for all those in the entertainment industry who continue to produce television, theatre, music and films for us to watch at home.

A prayer in the garden

If you do not have a garden, you can pray from your doorstep or from a window.



Take a moment to pray for all those in your street and community.

Thank God for all those who have reached out to help and support their neighbours during lockdown.

Ask God to keep our communities connected even after the lockdown time is over.

Morning and Evening Prayer

Sometimes when life feels a little (or a lot) out of control it can be helpful to begin and/or end the day with prayer. It helps to move our focus from the chaos, to the unchanging God who holds us close, and to still our hearts and minds. Contained here are suggested forms of morning and evening prayer, but others are available. Knowing that we are joining with others, in our church community and around the world, can help us to remember that we are not alone, but are part of the family of God, held together in his love.

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background. You can say the words out loud, or read the quietly to yourself, which ever feels more comfortable. If you are praying with others then you can choose one person to lead and the other(s) say the responses in bold type.

Morning Prayer

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.

Nahum 1.7

Opening Sentences

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

You may wish to read Psalm 23 or another psalm here, such as Psalm 16 or Psalm 139.

After the Psalm we say these words.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

You may wish to follow the weekly pattern of short readings given here, or choose a passage of your own.

Monday John 14.1-6

Tuesday	Philippians 4.8-9
Wednesday	Colossians 3.16,17
Thursday	Ephesians 2.19-22
Friday	Romans 12.9-12
Saturday	Luke 12.22-31 20
Sunday	The reading for the church service

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger;
order us in all our doings
and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening sentences

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those
who watch for the morning,
more than those
who watch for the morning.

Call: Out of the depths I have cried to You.

Response: **O Lord, hear my voice.**

Call: With my whole heart I want to praise You.

Response: **O Lord, hear my voice.**

Call: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities:

Response: **Who could stand? who could stand?**

I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in His word do I hope.

Expressions of faith

Lord, You have always given
bread for the coming day;

and though I am poor,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept
me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened
this darkness of mine;

and though the night is here,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken
when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now,
today I believe.

Bible Reading

You may wish to read a passage from the Bible here.

Prayers

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

The Lord is my light, my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the refuge of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

One thing I ask of the Lord,
one thing I seek;

to dwell in the presence of my God,
to gaze on Your holy place.

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

I believe I shall see the goodness
of the Lord in the land of the living.
O wait for the Lord!
Have courage and wait,
wait for the Lord.

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

Blessing

See that you be at peace among yourselves, my
children,
and love one another.

Follow the example of the wise and good
and God will comfort you and help you,
both in this world
and in the world which is to come.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Online worship and support

If you have internet access and haven't found us yet, then we are online at:

www.christchurchdartford.com

On Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChristChurchDartford/

On Twitter at www.twitter.com/ChristChurchDA1

On YouTube – search for Christ Church Dartford

All our services will be posted on all these websites, so you only need to find us once!

At the moment it is our intention that any return to in-person worship will be supported by ongoing online content for those who cannot attend in person.

All other updates and news are posted to twitter, Facebook and the website, as simultaneously as possible.

You can message us on Facebook or twitter or email the church administrator on christchurchdartford@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone Worship and Support

Each Sunday at 10am there is a phone in service (usually led by Rev Richard Mortimer). To access this call **0333 011 0616** And key in the access code **1038685** followed by a # (it asks for a £ but most phones have #). Then say your name followed by #, and this will be announced to the other listeners as you join the conversation. It costs a standard call rate, at the end just hang up.

The Church of England also has a daily service that you can phone into at any time:



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Although the church office is closed, phone messages are being checked remotely each day. If there is anything we can help with, or support that we can give, please do call 01322 221589 and we will get back to you as soon as possible.