

The following prayer time was written for the North Cheshire Circuit, for their Weeknight Worship last week (23/04/20). It was a combined effort between Deacons Tim and Helen Coleman. We hope that you find it helpful at this difficult time. If you would like to hear the prayers (but not the lament, that will be used another time) then follow the link - they are at 33.25mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWjwZlruIE2Xe8IUUrtfaq>

Prayers of lament

This is painful and frightening.

Where are you God?

I can't go to see my children and their families
and I miss them.

My parents are vulnerable and far away too.

What happens if they get the Covid virus?

Will they live?

I fear for the safety of those I love...

and, will I survive if I get it?

My life seems to have shrunk to the walls of my home,
and my home,

as comfortable as it is,

has become like a prison.

This is not right, God.

What is going on with the world today?

When will things return to normal?

Will they ever return to normal?

There are days when I think I'm losing my mind
and I wonder...

why you would let this happen?

Where are you, God?

What am I supposed to do?

I cry out to you from the depths of my heart
with so many emotions

and a breaking heart for my loved ones,
my community,
our country,
our world.

How long, oh Lord, will this go on?

(Pause)

Your creation awakens around us,
rising from the deadness of winter into the vibrant new life of spring,
and we are reminded that you are Lord,
the creator and recreator,
the sustainer of all life.

All creation was bought into existence by your word
and so we look to you
because you alone have the words of eternal life
You alone are God.

Prayers of intercession

So hear our prayers for the world you have placed us in
At such a time as this.

We pray:

For those who are stuck in their homes,
Those alone with their loneliness
The parents balancing working at home with home schooling
The teenagers longing for their friends,
the lovers separated by social distancing
The abused in lockdown with their abusers
Marriages under pressure
Those with strains on finances and relationships
Those with non-covid health needs,

mental as well as physical

We pray:

For the businesses under threat and potential job losses

For the retail world in turmoil as shops are in shutdown

while the online shopping is in overdrive.

For the supermarkets trying to restock shelves and keep us supplied with necessities

For those who panic buy out of fear

We pray :

For those responding to the needs of the NHS making the PPE and respirators.

For the NHS, cares and other frontline workers

risking their own health while seeking to care for others.

For all those working to maintain the essential services

For our government and all those in authority and power – give wisdom, compassion and unity in the way they govern.

For school teachers caring for the children of key workers

For:

The transport services

The emergency services

The hidden workers

That keep the energy flowing

The bins emptied,

The water in our taps

The food on our tables

And much more besides

We pray for those who are suffering this insidious sickness.

Bring healing, oh Lord.

Be with them in their struggle for life,

give strength and encouragement.

And for their families too,

kept at a distance unable to be with them,
trusting others to love them.

We pray for the scientists working to find a cure,
to design a vaccine

We pray for the bereaved;

the loved ones,

the families and friends,

the colleagues and neighbours,

the communities behind every single one of the statistics of the lives lost to Covid 19.

We pray for the loneliness of grief

amplified by the restrictions of social distancing

and the sense of being cheated in so many ways,

and the fear of being the next one to suffer and die.

For those that seek to minister to them,

the undertakers,

funeral directors

and ministers of faith.

We pray for the Church restricted in movement and in gathering,

halted in its usual ministries,

yet finding ways to organise and communicate.

We thank you for the liberation from the tyranny of time,

gifting us the opportunity to pray and study God's word,

turning every Christian home into a place of worship

and a house of prayer.

We give thanks for the Spirit guiding us into new ways to fulfil the mission,

helping us find our feet in the opportunities to serve

through foodbanks and other community ministries.

We pray for growth in the skills needed to utilise modern technology,

to make the most of the opportunity
to reach into the homes of more people
than ever come to a church building.

We remember,

Lord, that you are not limited or restricted.

Your Spirit goes ahead of us

and your Word never returns to you fruitless.

Help us to spread your liberating Gospel to the communities around us,

to our friends, family and neighbours,

in word and deed,

with respect and gentleness.

We pray for our faith under the pressures of our locked down lives,

the weight of the almost unescapable barrage of Corona related news,

the constant fears for our families and friends,

our neighbours and communities,

and our own life;

fears that threatens to overwhelm us and steal our joy.

Help us Lord, to keep our eyes on you,

to encourage one another

and together be a beacon of hope in the world.

In the name of Christ,

our saviour,

who defeated death and lives and reigns with you.

Amen