

# **A SERVICE OF THE WORD DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS**

## **Guidelines**

1. The material in this service is provided as a resource for those leading worship during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The service may be used as a stand-alone act of worship or material from it may be used at other suitable places in other services provided in the Book of Common Prayer.
3. Additional prayers for use at public worship or private prayer are included at the end of this booklet.
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# A SERVICE OF THE WORD DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

## Preparation

Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Sentences of Scripture

God is our refuge and strength;  
a very present help in trouble. *Psalms 46.1*

I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 121.1-2*

This I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning. *Lamentations 3.21-23*

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.  
God is close to those who trust in him. *Nahum 1.7*

Hymn

Bidding

God of all mercy and compassion,  
life and death are in your hands.

As we gather in this time of illness and infection,  
of isolation, fear, and uncertainty:  
we are mindful of the sick  
and those weighed down by pain, distress, loneliness, and anxiety;  
those who care for them, conscious of the risks they bear;  
and all who have responsibility for public health and social order.  
We pray that the cry of the afflicted may be heard  
and that they may be comforted,  
so that all who suffer may come to know  
that they are joined to the sufferings of Christ,  
who gave his life for the salvation of the world;  
and by your blessing on them and those who care for them,  
they may they be restored, according to your will,  
to soundness of body, mind and spirit  
and offer joyful thanks in your Church.

### **Penitence**

When we cry out to the Lord in our trouble,  
**he will deliver us from our distress.**

God will bring us out of darkness  
**into his marvellous light.**

*Short penitential sentences may be inserted between the petitions of the Kyrie.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father  
forgive us and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days. **Amen.**

*The priest pronounces this absolution.*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
Have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Beatitudes (BCP pages 223-224) may also be used*

## Ministry of the Word

*The lectionary provision of the day or the readings below may be used.*

Psalm

*Psalm 23, 27, 91 or 121*

First Reading

*Jeremiah 14: 9, Romans 12: 9-12, Ephesians 2: 19-22, Philippians 4: 8-9,  
Colossians 3: 16, 17, 1 Peter 5: 6,7*

Second Reading

*Matthew 11: 28-end, Luke 12: 22-31, John 14: 1-6*

The Sermon

## Responding

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God the Father,  
who made the world.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son,  
who redeemed humankind.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God.**

*Or*

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The Apostles' Creed or Nicene Creed may also be used.*

*Words in italics are suggestions, to be used, adapted, or added to, as necessary.*

We pray to the Lord,  
to the God who is our shelter and strength,  
always ready to help in times of trouble.

We pray for our communities:

*for the elderly, confined to their homes and separated from family and support;*  
*for children, removed from school;*  
*for those who have lost their source of income;*  
*for those who fear for their home;*  
*for those who have no home;*  
*for those offering extraordinary, everyday kindness;*  
*for ...*

***Silent prayer***

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, you are in the midst of us:  
help us in our time of trouble.

We pray for the young and those in education:

*for those anxious about the future, a place at third level education, or employment;*  
*for those worried about loved ones and friends;*  
*for those concerned about their own health;*  
*for...*

***Silent prayer***

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, you are our refuge and strength:  
let us not be afraid, even though the world is changed.

We pray for key workers:

*for all healthcare and all essential workers;  
for medical researchers;  
for social workers;  
for teachers;  
for farmers, delivery and shop workers;  
for ...*

*Silent prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, may the nations hear your voice:  
and know that you are God,  
We pray for the world:

*for the leaders of the nations and their governments;  
for public health advisors and scientists;  
for areas most affected by the pandemic;  
for broken places where healthcare and resources are scarce;  
for ...*

*Silent prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, be with us in our time of need:  
help us to do what has been asked of us,  
and give us grace to help others do what has been asked of them.  
We pray for those who are sick:

*for those afflicted with Coronavirus;  
for those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable;  
for those with poor mental health;  
for all who suffer;  
remembering especially ...*

*Silent prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, we trust in you, because your love is constant:  
bring us comfort and healing,  
for you are always willing to save.  
We pray for the Church:

*for our fellow members in the body of Christ;  
for our hospital and hospice chaplains;  
for all who minister to the sick and the dying;  
for all who are bereaved;  
for...*

*Silent prayer*

Giving thanks for the resurrection of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we remember and give thanks for all those who have died during this pandemic;

*we remember ...*

**Merciful Father,  
accept these our prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

*or*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven:  
hallowed be thy name,**

thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Going Out As God's People

Blessing

God grant to the living, grace  
to the departed, rest,  
to the Church and to the nations, peace and concord;  
and the blessing...

Dismissal

The Lord bless us and protect us,  
**and share an abundance of life in your Name. Amen.**

## Additional Prayers

### *For reassurance*

Keep us, heavenly Father, 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.**

### *For service*

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 your love,  
for your name's sake. **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.**

*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.**

*Eucharistic Preface*

And now we give you thanks  
that our Lord Jesus Christ  
took upon himself our human nature,  
and so shared our joy and our tears,  
bore all our sickness,  
and carried all our sorrows.  
Through death he brought us  
to the life of his glorious resurrection,  
giving for frailty eternal strength,  
and restoring in us the image of your glory.

*Post Communion Prayer*

God of all compassion,  
by the dying and rising of your Christ  
you restore us to yourself  
and enfold us in your love.  
May we who have been refreshed  
with the bread of life and the cup of salvation

be renewed by your healing Spirit  
and made ready for the coming of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *World Health Organisation Act of Commitment*

1. We commit to the shared aim of equitable global access to innovative tools for COVID-19 for all.
2. We commit to an unprecedented level of partnership – proactively engaging stakeholders, aligning and coordinating efforts, building on existing collaborations, collectively devising solutions, and grounding our partnership in transparency, and science.
3. We commit to create a strong unified voice to maximize impact, recognizing this is not about singular decision-making authority, but rather collective problem-solving, interconnectedness and inclusivity, where all stakeholders can connect and benefit from the expertise, knowledge and activities of this shared action-oriented platform.
4. We commit to build on past experiences towards achieving this objective, including ensuring that every activity we undertake is executed through the lens of equitable global access, and that the voices of the communities most affected are heard.
5. We commit to be accountable to the world, to communities, and to one another. We are coming together in the spirit of solidarity, and in the service of humanity, to achieve our mission and vision.