Keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your wings of mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,

and be close to all who are ill, or in isolation.

Bring your presence into the midst of our loneliness,

your peace into our anxiety, your light into our darkness.

Thank you that you promise never to leave us or forsake us,

so we may be assured that in whatever ways we are struggling, we are not alone because nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,

we ask you to continue to give resilience, skill and sympathy

to all who are caring for the vulnerable, the elderly and the sick,

whether at home, in care home or hospital.

By your Spirit strengthen all in our health and social care systems,

that through their work many will be restored to health and know your comfort.

As research continues to discover vaccines and further drugs to limit this virus, we ask for your blessing of breakthrough and that the benefits will be shared by all. Amen.

Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of all talents,

We pray for all key workers, risking their well-being to help others.

We thank you for each one and pray your protection and blessing

over them and their families.

We pray we would all take on board the current guidelines and act responsibly for the protection of ourselves and others. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

You know what it is to grieve.

We pray that you will draw close to all who mourn,

that you will enfold them in your loving arms and comfort them.

May they know a tangible sense of your comfort as they grieve,

and that you are with them always. Amen.

Loving Lord,

There are so many people whose livelihoods have been damaged by this virus.

We pray for all who cannot work, or whose job is under threat, or has come to an end,

We pray for those seeking work in a very challenging job market.

We pray for all who are worried about money and ask that government support will be available and easily accessible.

We pray for the self-employed and employers, especially in those sectors that have been hardest hit.

As our towns and cities welcome back increased numbers of workers we pray for safety in transport, in workplaces and practices. Amen.

Sovereign Spirit of God,

As pupils and students return to schools, colleges and universities, we pray for them and all teachers, teaching assistants, lecturers, principals and governors.

Help them to engage with their lessons and studies in ways that are considered and safe, and we ask for your protection over them and their families. Amen.

Father God,

We pray for our government and other world leaders.

Grant them humility and integrity as they work on our behalf.

We pray for the right decisions to be made at the right time,

and that you will show us how to lower infection rates again.

We pray for the establishment of your justice in our world, and for an end to all oppression, racism and corruption wherever and whenever it is found.

We ask for your spirit of generosity and grace to abound,

for your wisdom in decision making,

your clarity in communication,

and for imagination as new plans are created. Amen.

We pray for your church throughout the world and ask that you will show us how to live out our faith throughout this crisis in both word and deed.

By your Holy Spirit we ask you to strengthen and unify your church that we may serve others and be salt and light in our communities.

We pray the hearts of many will turn to you and become lifelong disciples of Jesus, praying especially for all the Alpha courses, including our own.

As we prepare to begin worship again in church, we lift to you our own church family.

Grant us wisdom as we implement new changes, and guide and lead us that we may be attentive, obedient and faithful to your will. Amen.

We are not people of fear,

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety alone,

we are people who protect our neighbours’ safety.

We are not people of greed,

we are people of generosity.

We are not people who promote oppression,

We are people who seek justice and equality for all.

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.

And so we gather all our prayers together, those spoken, and the silent ones we’ve said in our hearts, bringing before God every family represented here in our community in Alsager and online as we say together the family prayer that Jesus taught us

**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 forever. Amen.**

**Short passages from the bible**

Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation

Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength.

Psalm 121 God is our helper and protector

Psalm 139 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me

Isaiah 43 I have called you by name

Matt 6 v 25 – 34 Do not worry about your life, God cares for you.

Phil. 4 v 4 – 8 God’s peace will guard you hearts

**Personal Prayers**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
‘I am with you always’.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Amen

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
I place in your hands my unfinished tasks, unsolved problems, and hopes,
knowing that you continue your work to bless me.
To your love and protection I commit myself and all those I love,
knowing that you alone are my sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*(from St Patrick’s Breastplate)*

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