

Prayers for Spring 2020.

Psalm 57 v 1

*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,
for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.*

Some thoughts ...

With the outbreak of the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, the prevalence of worrying, depressing news has been overwhelming and at times almost too much to bear. The threat to ourselves, loved ones and neighbours needs to be taken extremely seriously, and we are reminded in no uncertain terms that each of us is responsible for the welfare of others. In today's highly inter-connected world we are learning in a very painful way, just how easily events in one part of the world can quickly affect the whole planet, not just those nearest and dearest to us.



Our 21st century lives have taken a jolt and due to measures such as social distancing, self-isolation,

lockdown and quarantining, the world has come to a standstill in some respects; life, as we had been leading it, has been severely disrupted and none of us can know how the world will change as a consequence.

However, the planet keeps spinning at the same rate, seasons continue, and as winter turns to spring, we begin to see new growth and life in fields, parks and gardens. God's plan for our planet is still being worked out. That plan involves people turning to His Son for forgiveness and his acceptance of us in spite of our shortcomings; He plans for us to embrace His love and mercy as well as to keep his instruction to live lives of love and compassion.





The following prayer is from PCI's website; it's on the *Let's Pray* page.

- **A Prayer to our Heavenly Father**

Heavenly Father, we come to you right now amongst a cloud of uncertainty, Covid-19 has spread amongst your people. For those who are currently afflicted by this virus, we ask for the miraculous; may lungs be restored to full health, headaches dissolved, body aches disbanded.

For anyone battling symptoms, may God bring restoration and health;

For those who are battling far worse: cancers, tumours, strokes, may you lay your healing hand upon them, Jesus.

When we cry out to you for help, may your response be "I am willing" (Matthew 8:3).

We lift up to you medical professionals across our nation and around the world,

May you bless their gifted hands.

(ref. www.presbyterianireland.org/Prayer/Prayer-for-Today)

Some Second Comber Prayers

- ❖ We pray for the National Health Service as it responds to the Covid-19 threat and this added pressure on its already overstretched services. We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions.
- ❖ Remember to pray also for those working behind the scenes testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients. Uphold others trying to understand this virus better and pray for the work to create an effective remedy.
- ❖ Pray for Syria. As hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, as those of different faiths live fearing the actions of their neighbour, pray that there might be peace in that land; that our world leaders might have the wisdom, empathy and courage to strive for it; and that you would be with those in the midst of this war sowing the seeds of Peace, offering your protection and comfort.

Psalm 57 v 2, 3

*² I cry out to God Most High,
to God, who vindicates me.*

*³ He sends from heaven and saves me,
rebuking those who hotly pursue me.
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.*

- ❖ Pray for our church over the Easter period. Since attendance is out of the question for the coming weeks, pray that we would not falter or go astray, remaining strong in the reading of The Word and through prayer.



- ❖ Covid-19 has entered our world as 'the pestilence that stalks in darkness' Ps 91: but Ps 37:7 reminds us to 'Quiet down before God, be prayerful before him'. Pause, be still, focus on our unchangeable God rather than on the ever-changing community situation.
- ❖ Pray for all of our children and young people and their parents as they adjust to this challenging situation.
- ❖ Pray for patience and understanding as parents deal with home schooling and children adapt to different ways of learning without the discipline of school and the presence of their classmates.
- ❖ Remember too, the teachers, who are working differently to provide feedback and encouragement to their classes. Remember those teachers who are still

going into School on a rotational basis to help care of the children of key workers. Pray for their health and well being and that of their families.

- ❖ Thank God for technology and opportunities to reach out and share God's word with the children in new ways. Pray that many will access the resources being made available through our Google Classroom so that they will learn about the importance of God's Armour.
- ❖ Remember especially those young people who have finished school, not in the way in which they would have hoped or wished. Pray that they will be strong mentally and continue to study and strive towards their goal whether it be University entrance, College entrance or employment. We know how much they will miss their face to face meetings with their friends. Pray that they will know support and friendship through our Church family and our social media interactions.
- ❖ Pray for the members of the LIFE team: -
'Inspire us with your ideas and fresh ways to take forward Women's Ministry. Help us to make plans in faith and by your spiritual guidance.'
- ❖ Pray that women will develop a deeper desire to grow in spiritual maturity. Pray for opportunities for women to study Gods Word together.

*Be still before the Lord and wait
patiently for him... Ps 37:7*

- ❖ Please pray for our world in general that it may recover from the Coronavirus crisis and that life will soon return to some kind of normality.
- ❖ We need to pray for protection for our loved ones in these difficult days and in the uncertain future which lies ahead.
- ❖ Pray that each one of us would ask for forgiveness in our own situations, regardless of the circumstances, for times when we may have acted without due consideration for our neighbour. We have seen evidence of selfishness in the media such as panic buying, so our prayer is that we all would seek forgiveness for our selfishness, greed and lack of respect for others: Lord, may we seek healing of this broken world.
- ❖ As we approach Easter, may we be humbled and ever thankful for the ultimate sacrifice made for us on the cross. Pray that more and more people will come to know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord and experience the freedom this brings.

- ❖ Let us be thankful for all we have in Second, for the rich variety of worship we enjoy during less difficult times. Give thanks for our organist, musicians and choir; ask that we will soon be reunited in worship. "May the worship of our hearts be pleasing to You as we praise you in these troubled times."
- ❖ We ask God for His blessing on all those working further afield with Aid Agencies and those in the Mission Field who seek to help the many needs and problems which face the poorest in our world who face difficulties 365 days a year. May they know of Your blessing on their work as they serve you in the toughest of circumstances. May we uphold and support them financially and in prayer.

Amen

Prayers include contributions from LIFE Women's Ministry, GB, Ignite, Lightship, World Development & Session.