

### A Litany

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

### Some personal prayers

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find 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

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.  
Light up the darkness in our lives.  
In the darkness of our uncertainty,  
when we don't know what to do,  
when decisions are hard to take:  
give us light to guide us.

In the darkness of our anxiety  
when we are worried what the future may bring,  
when we don't know where to turn  
give us the light of your peace.

In the darkness of our despair,  
when life seems empty,  
when we feel there is no future worth seeking  
give us the light of your hope. Amen

### From the Corrymeela Worship Book

#### Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways:  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives your service find,  
in deeper reverence praise,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord  
let us, like them, obey his word:  
'Rise up and follow me,  
rise up and follow me!'

Drop your still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of your peace,  
the beauty of your peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
your coolness and your balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm!

#### © Jubilate Hymns Ltd

While we might be suspicious of hymns which set spiritual and physical experience in opposition, as if God were not the maker of all flesh as well as all souls, this hymn works for other reasons. The broadcaster Huw Edwards has said he chose it for his own wedding because it is about 'celebration, praise, lifelong faith and God's guidance.' And that is true. It is a hymn which helps us all seek out the 'still small voice of calm' in the midst of this time of confusion and uncertainty. And it does it beautifully.

The second verse conjures up that image of Jesus standing at the shore as the disciples were at work, fishing. But the hymn is less concerned with rolling up our sleeves and casting out nets but more of an invitation to kneel at Jesus side and to bask in a kind of holy hush. Even eternity here seems silent. It's no surprise to discover that the hymn was written by a Quaker.

Over the last few weeks and days all our lives have changed at such a rapid rate, and the changes are affecting us all so differently. Concerns about being isolated, job losses, money, childcare, mental and physical health, to name but a few. And

## DAILY PRAYER

how do we best care for the most vulnerable in our community? All these things might not constitute an 'earthquake, wind and fire' exactly, but they can feel like it sometimes! Now, more than ever, we need those dews of quietness and voice of calm. Our strivings may not cease, as we reflect on or sing this hymn, but they may at least be put into perspective for a while.

**(Adapted from a reflection by Sally Magnusson, BBC Songs of Praise.)**