

Hi Friends,

- **We are a people of prayer who trust a God who loves us even in the messiness of the world.**
- **Centre Church leadership will let you know of any changes in our church's schedule or practices.**
- **Please let us know if you or someone you know needs special help.**
- **Here are four things about God to help us as we pray for people caught up in the coronavirus situation:**

### **1. Pray to the Father, the creator and sustainer of all**

As we think of all those affected by COVID-19 – who have lost loved ones, who are infected, those whose lives have been shaken and disrupted, we remember that we pray to the Father, the creator of all. He is the one who to whom the earth and all that is within it belong.

#### **Please pray for:**

- Healing for all those who are sick, that they would respond well to treatment.
- An end to the spread of the virus.
- Those under lockdown – over 50 million people in Hubei province in China alone are restricted to their homes and can't go outside. Pray for patience and good relationships between family members who are stuck in close proximity.

### **2. Pray to the God of all comfort**

*'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God'*  
(2 Corinthians 1:3)

In this situation, we can cry out to the Father of compassion to comfort those who are grieving and to help those struggling with the disruption to daily life.

#### **Please pray:**

- Pray for God's comfort and peace for the many working and studying abroad who are very fearful for family and friends back home. Pray that medical and mission workers in their communities can continue to give them the ongoing support they need, and know God's leading as they do this.
- From 2 March all schools in Japan and soon in other places will be closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Pray that this would be effective, but also pray for parents needing to take time

off work or make childcare arrangements.

- The virus is a solemn reminder of the uncertainty of life – ask that many would be drawn to Christ, a sure hope in uncertain times.
- Pray for Christians to be able to comfort those around them with the comfort they receive from God.

### **3. Pray to the Spirit, who brings wisdom and strength**

Fighting COVID-19 is a huge challenge for medical staff and governments around the world. God the Spirit provides wisdom and strength. In his grace, he gives strength to the weary and sustains people. He grants wisdom, even to those who do not know him.

#### **Pray for:**

- Strength for medical workers dealing with COVID-19 across East Asia. There are stories of extreme exhaustion and of the challenges of isolation. Ask the Lord to sustain them and that they would know they can call on his strength.
- Great wisdom for governments and health authorities as they seek to contain the virus.

### **4. Pray to Christ, the light of the world**

The darker the surroundings, the brighter the light shines. In times of darkness, difficulty and uncertainty, Christ's Church often grows, both spiritually and numerically.

#### **Pray for:**

- Christians to continue trusting the Lord to learn to always turn to Jesus for the peace they seek
- Christians to faithfully point others to Jesus in these uncertain times
- Churches to unite in prayer and find practical ways to demonstrate Christ's love and comfort to those around them
- Christian workers, missionaries, and health workers, and other public servants to know God's peace and to turn their anxious thoughts into prayers (Philippians 4:6). Pray for physical, mental and spiritual protection

*This prayer guide was adapted from our friends at OMF International in China*

<https://omf.org/blog/2020/02/29/coronavirus-outbreak-four-ways-to-pray/>

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