

A Prayer for South Africa

Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you today in humble prayer; we thank you for all the blessings that You have given us, for the Love and the Wisdom that fill our minds, and for protection against evil and falsity.

We pray for those who are sick and who have died of the Coronavirus, or who may do so in the future, that you be with them and lift up their spirits and give them hope; hope that you care for them, in both body and in soul; and that should they pass away, you will lead them into your heavenly kingdom, where they will someday again see their loved ones left behind.

We pray for the Doctors, nurses, and hospital staff whose job it is to care for those who are sick. Help them to prepare mentally and spiritually for the task ahead; give them strength to do what is necessary, in a hard time, and especially when they are called on to make decisions for which there is no easy answer. Help them to do their jobs honestly, justly, and faithfully.

We pray for all those serving in so many ways: for those who provide services and food to those in need, for the volunteers working harder than ever for no pay, for the teachers creating a safe space for their students, for the police diligently protecting the people, for each and every person who is stepping up to go above and beyond the call of duty in service to their community and to You.

We pray for all the children and parents; for the children, that you keep them safe from fear and anxiety, and that you preserve their loving innocence; and for the parents that you give them strength to persevere and patience, and to know that their efforts make a difference in the lives of their children.

We pray for the elderly, who are at risk, and have been shut off from physical contact with their family and loved ones for their own safety; we pray that you touch their hearts with your love, that you connect them with a community of angels, and that you grant them patience to endure, knowing that the day will come when they will be free again.

We pray for our leaders, both local and national, that they put behind them selfishness and dishonesty, and strive for the greater good of all the people of South Africa and all of the people in their communities; may they be God fearing and upright, as they make grave decisions that will change people's lives, for better or for worse, for which no matter what they choose someone will hate them. Fill them with Your spirit of leading by serving.

We pray for business owners and workers, who have no idea if a future exists for them economically, who are worried if the businesses they have poured their hearts into will survive; who worry if they will be able to put food on the table for their families; inspire them with the love of being useful, and the dignity of working not just for material things but as a means to serve others.

We pray for the poor and homeless, the most vulnerable, desperate, hungry people, who have not even the basics of what they need to live, who struggle even when

times are plentiful for others; help them know that they are worthy of love and respect; and turn our hearts to serve them even after this crisis has past, to lift them up as best we can when we again receive worldly blessings.

We pray for all the people of South Africa and the world, that you fill them up with goodness and love; that you turn them away from selfishness and protect them from evil; and that you guide us towards your heavenly kingdom.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! **Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today:** that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, "My name shall be there," that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive. (1Kings 8:27-30)

Amen.