

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In A Covid World

Our Father in heaven –

We are helpless and so vulnerable without you.

Hallowed by your name –

We call your name with bowed heads and outstretched arms. The holiness of your creation is under threat as Covid plays greedily with life.

Your kingdom come –

The virus confronting us spawns disruption and disharmony, separation, isolation and death - so opposed to your kingdom of light and grace and peace. Enclose us in your loving embrace that we might know the splendour of your reign.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven –

Your love for the world brought Jesus to us; you spoke your Word to us in him. We have not always listened. Our misuse of your gifts has surely contributed to our present distress. Help us to honour your will in all things.

Give us today our daily bread –

The virus has isolated us from one another, starving us of company and the means to live in the joy of community. Feed us now with awareness of how necessary our connection is to one another and to all creation. May our care and love become the daily bread that feeds every life.

Forgive us our sins –

We have wasted and spoiled much of your creation. We have thought only of ourselves. Perhaps this is why the virus attacks only humans. Shake us awake to our indifference. Forgive our selfishness, our neglect, our greed.

As we forgive those who sin against us –

It is easy to feel hard done by, to blame others for our own ills. Yet forgiveness is so healing, calming, peaceful. Rid us of all resentment which, like the virus, isolates and destroys. Withholding forgiveness locks down pity and mercy.

Save us from the time of trial –

The pandemic of Covid-19 has shown us the negative side of exclusion. It is the doorway to loneliness and the end of community. Save us from any temptation to exclude others, to belittle or devalue companionship. This is the trap that Covid sets. Protect us.

Deliver us from evil –

Come to our rescue, gentle and merciful God. Bring us through this terrible time with our faith and love stronger, with a clearer vision of your precious gift of life, and with a fuller understanding of our responsibility in the world that means so much to you.

For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

James B. Lyons