

**Virtual Prayer Service**  
**For the World and the Nation**  
**At the time of the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**Greeting**

In the words of the Psalmist, we, a community of faith, are called to:

**Praise the Lord O my soul:**

**And all that is within me praise his holy name**

**Praise the Lord O my soul**

**And forget not all his benefits**

**Who forgives all your sin**

**And heals all your infirmities**

**Who redeems your life from the Pit**

**And crowns you with mercy and compassion**

**Welcome:**

We are gathered for a Virtual Prayer Service at various locations as we heed the call for social distancing and community lockdown. We gather as a community of faith and members of the family of the Triune God. “Your people are frightened, O God, and many people are isolated. People are sick, and vulnerable people are dying. We notice how little control we have over what really matters – and that what really matters is loving concern. So, we ask for your comfort and support for those who are frightened. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another”. We come before God humbly and confidently knowing our need for repentance and our inability to find an urgent and lasting cure in our own strength.

Hymn:                    Praise my souls the king of heaven

As a global community we share collective responsibility for the choices we have made and for our complacency which allowed our leaders to make reckless decisions that has now come to impact all our lives negatively. As a community of faith we do not despair because the One who has called us is far greater than anything we can imagine. His power, His love and His mercy knows no bounds. As we’ve been encouraged, we come into God’s presence with the sure knowledge that the One who called us will also save us. So we

gather in faith and as Scripture promises we will knock in the certainty that God will open, we will ask with the certainty that God will provide and we seek in the sure knowledge that we will find the answers.

### **Opening Prayer**

Our God our parent, we praise You for Your goodness to all nations, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we are here today because we know all is not right with our world. We deeply need moral and spiritual renewal; medical and economic solutions to help us meet the many challenges we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to You in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of your righteousness and peace. We pray for our nations' leaders. Give them wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it. You have said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Ps 33:12) May this be a new era for our world, as we come into Your presence and as we humble ourselves and acknowledge You alone as our Lord and Saviour. This we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ.

**Amen**

(Adapted: Billy Graham's Prayer for the Nation)

### **Call to Confession**

"Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs, and an impious people reviles your name. Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for your covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence. Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise your name. Rise up, O God, plead your cause; remember how the impious scoff at you all day long. "(Ps 74:18-22)

Christians have a painful history of either participating in or passively supporting decisions and deeds that negatively impact the lives of many citizens of the world. The powerful have arrogantly pursued their own agendas. The rich have ignored the plight of the poor, aged, young, and deprived. Men have thoughtlessly and violently abused those who they supposed to love and care for, Victims and the oppressed have become in their turn oppressors. We have failed to heed the signs, bow humbly before you, waited on you.

God of love, Mercy and Grace forgive us

For the hatred which divides community from community, ethnic group from ethnic group, class from class; nation from nation **Father, forgive**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, **Father, forgive**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, **Father, forgive**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, **Father, forgive**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the sick and infected, the refugees, **Father, forgive**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, **Father, forgive**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God. **Father, forgive**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news. Christ is our peace.  
He has united those who were separated.  
He has broken down the wall of hostility.  
Through his death he has reconciled us with God in one body.  
He has proclaimed peace to those, who were far away,  
and to those who were near. (Eph. 2:14-17)  
Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### **Absolution**

Almighty God who forgives who truly repent, have mercy on us; pardon our sins and keep us free from them; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

Exodus 12: 28-39

Pharaoh Repents

God said, “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”(2 Chron 7:14)

Romans 12: 9- 21

Marks of a Christian

### **Sermon/Talk**

Chorus

Be still and know

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:**

#### **Pray for healing from COVID 19**

#### **Pray for the Church**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Cor 12: 27).we ask you blessing on our Archbishop, all Bishops, Priest and Deacons of our Church, clergy of all Christian Denominations and leaders of all faiths, give them wisdom to work with the leaders of the nations, to invest in long term solutions that will help prepare us or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, Lord Jesus Christ.We pray that churches will be outgoing communities of welcome and support, so that people will have someone to call on when they are in need. Let us also use this as an opportunity to slow down, reflect and look at our neighbours in a new way; to rethink our relation to nature and to be awake to the need to change the way we live.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

#### **Pray for the World:**

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it: the compass of the world and those who dwell therein.” (ps24:1) We pray for your world Holy God. Suppress our immense appetite to grab more than we need and in its course denying our brothers and sisters a share of your riches. Remove from us the stigma caused by the boundaries we have erected to keep us apart from one another. Grant us the grace to look beyond our own wants and identify the needs of others.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

### **Thanksgiving for this Nation:**

St Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances..." (1 Thess 5:18). We give thanks: for this rainbow nation; for 26 years of democratic rule; for examples of exemplary leadership; for the many who had made the ultimate sacrifice; for those who serve this country diligently and selflessly; for our constitution that enshrines our rights and responsibilities; for the many challenges we continue to face; for moments of uncertainty and fear and for the many opportunities we have to turn our attention to you, Holy Father.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

### **Servant Leadership:**

"But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. (Lk 22: 25-26) We pray that all called to high office will serve with integrity and humility; that the State President and all political leaders on a national, provincial and local level will selflessly pursue their task to serve their constituencies; ask that our leaders acknowledge that all authority in heaven and on earth comes from you.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

### **Pray for all Front-line Workers**

"He has sent me to heal the broken hearted." (Luke 4:18) we pray for all involved in medical care, treatment and research. Be with the **doctors, nurses, researchers and** all medical professionals as they seek to heal and help those affected and infected. Protect them from putting themselves at risk of personal harm, injury and infection. Lord Jesus Christ, may they know your protection and peace.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

### **Purging our land of all that is evil:**

" But if any nation will not listen, then I will completely uproot it and destroy it, says the Lord. (Jer. 12:17) and Moses said, "The Lord your God you shall follow, him alone you shall fear, his commandments you shall keep, his voice you shall obey, him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast." (Deut 13:4) We pray for protection from the temptation to act corruptly, deviously and dishonestly, we ask that all those intent to do acts of evil that would

harm and destroy all that God created would be convicted and transformed to do acts of love, righteousness and justice.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

### **Healing of our Nation:**

God said, “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”(2 Chron 7:14) We pray that we become a prayerful nation; that we seek a common vision and work to a common purpose; that we renounce all that emphasis our differences negatively; that we will glory in the beauty of God’s image. We pray for unity and tolerance; for equitable sharing our resources; care and compassion for the poor and marginalised; upholding the constitution and that we may never forget God’s love, grace and mercy for this land and all its people.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

Heavenly Father, your Son has promised that whenever we pray in his name you will answer us: answer our prayers as may be best for us, granting in this world the knowledge of your truth and in the world to come the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(APB p53)

### **Lighting of a Candle**

We observe a moments silence as we petition God for our world and this country. A Candle is lit symbolising the we are the light of the world; the light we share with our Saviour who declared, “I am Light”. We light this candle in the sure knowledge that the light of God has the power to overcome the darkness of evil.

### **Prayer for South Africa**

**God Bless South Africa**

**Protect our children**

**Transform our leader**

**Heal our communities**

**Restore our dignity**

**And give us peace**

**For Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

We offer our collective prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name  
your kingdom come  
your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Benediction

**May the Lord bless us and watch over us. May the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. May the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.**

### Hymn

Healing of the nation'

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
For a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,  
from despair your world release;  
That, redeemed from war and hatred,  
men may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,

let it from the earth be banned;  
Pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas keeping man from man.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, creator-God, have written  
your great name on all mankind;  
For our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.