



**uniting  
church**  
Kiama Jamberoo

## **Prayers for Healing March 2020**

### **Opening Prayer**

You are greater than all we have in our human hands, God of plenty.

You are greater than all the storms and swirling powers which threaten to destroy us, God of risen life.

You are greater than we are, even in our best moments, even in our largest loving, even in the deepest dreams and visions of our hearts.

You are our God; the God of all eternity and we worship You.

Gracious Jesus, come, even though we are rarely ready for the surprising ways in which your presence is made known to us. Remind us of your generous life and our capacity to share with you in the healing of the world. Come as we worship You now.

Great God of the universe, we confess that sometimes we act as though you are not God.

When we live our life as though we do not need You;

If we fail to notice you walking on water beside us as we struggle with our fear;

When we hide from the world with its problems and longings as though the resources of your power are of no use;

When we hold on tight to our possessions for fear that we need to manage on our own;

And if we do not offer you what we have because we believe it has little significance in your plan; Forgive us O God.

Challenge us with the mystery of your grace and call us into your company. Amen.

### **Assurance**

*Do not be afraid.*

This is the word to us today and every day.

Live with faith, forgiveness is ours.

Thanks be to God

### **Matthew 4:23-25** (New Revised Standard Version)

*Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

## Prayers of the people

Gracious and merciful God, sometimes we feel as though we do not matter when we think of all the needs of the world. We are so few, so weak, as we wait before You this day. We can't imagine what to do or what to pray in response to the complex issues, the many facets of need and the unseen forces which confront us in these difficult days. Hear us O God, as we cry out to you.

We pray:

1. **For spouses and children in abusive situations.** We particularly pray for those in isolation at home where it may not be safe.
2. **For marriages that are struggling.** Use this time together to strengthen and nurture relationships Loving God.
3. **For pastors who are wrestling with how to minister to their congregations.**
4. **For churches whose existence may not survive this crisis.** We pray for the extra pressure this virus has put on pastoral care and finances of our churches.
5. **For church members and others who've lost their jobs.** We pray for those who have already been let go and others who have been notified. Still others are working a declining number of hours, and they don't know what the future holds. Seemingly within days, everything has changed.
6. **For church members and others whose retirement income seems to be disappearing.** The concerns for the financial security of many make our hearts heavy plentiful God.
7. **For non-believers who have no real direction to turn.** We lift up those who have no faith and no purpose in life. Draw them to you in this time of crisis Almighty God
8. **For God to heal the sick, comfort the grieving and give peace to the dying.**

We pray as Jesus taught us:

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Blessing

May you be embraced by the arms of the loving parent,  
Taken firmly by the hand of Jesus our Saviour  
And covered by the warming wings of the Spirit. Amen.