



*St George North
Anglican Church*

Suggested Prayers for Easter Sunday – 12 April 2020

1. A prayer of thanksgiving to God (from Psalm 95)

*Come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our Salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, And a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
And the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
And his hands have moulded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
And kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God,
And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Amen*

2. A prayer to thank God for the new life found in the risen Lord Jesus!

*Heavenly Father,

Thank you so much for our Lord Jesus. Thank you that he did not remain dead, but that you raised him to new and glorious eternal life, that he is the first fruits of the new creation to come. Thank you that in Christ we too have been made alive and are no longer dead in our transgressions and sins. Our lives are now hidden with him and we are new creations, looking forward to our own resurrection.

Please help us, Father, to live our new lives. To put to death our old ways that belong to our flesh, and instead to put on Christ-like virtue as we seek to live as your people.

Amen*

3. A prayer for our Governments and leaders as they lead us through the current crisis

*God of our nation,

We thank you for those you have set over us in leadership of our country. Thank you for the wisdom you have given them thus far, and we pray that you would continue to give them insight and understanding into the Covid-19 situation, that they may continue to make decisions and pass laws that protect life, care for the vulnerable, and serve the people that they lead.

We pray that in the stress of our current crisis many politicians will see that they are not in control, but will cast themselves upon Christ, the one who sustains the cosmos, Lord over all. Give Christians in parliament boldness to declare the hope they have in Christ.
Amen.*

4. A prayer for the weak and vulnerable in our society who are most at risk in light of COVID-19

God of all comfort,

As the great defender, we pray for your protection over the weak and vulnerable in our society. For those who experience immune deficiency, please keep their bodies strong and protect them from infection and illness. For those who suffer mental illness, please give them strength to persevere, people to love and care for them, and comfort in your love. For the lonely and suffering, assure them of your presence, bring people into their lives, even in non-physical ways, who can support them and relate to them.

We do not know the full experience of so many around us, but you do. So please be at work to comfort and protect them all, and may your word be spoken in their times of need that they may see the hope that is on offer in Christ, who loves them and died for them. Amen.

5. A prayer for persecuted Christians around the world this Easter

God over our whole world,

You are the fortress and protector of your people, all who trust in you can never be shaken. We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who do not experience our freedom but suffer because of their faith. Embolden them, by your Spirit, to continue to trust in Jesus and to proclaim his Lordship in whatever ways they can. May this strange time in our world create opportunities for faithful proclamation where it may not have been possible before.

We pray too, Father, that you would keep our brothers and sisters safe. Protect them from the virus and from persecution, that they may live tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness while we await the return of your Son. Change the hearts of leaders in these places that they may see the true glory of Christ and be humbled. Amen

6. A prayer for the unity of our Church and our love for one another through this time where regular gatherings are suspended

God of the church,

We grieve this time when Christians around the world are unable to meet together as the body of Christ, to love and encourage one another, and worship you together. Even though we may be separated physically we know that you have united us by your Spirit, in Christ, and so we pray that we may know deeply the reality of this union.

We thank you so much for the technology that has allowed churches around the world to continue to meet in new ways around your Word. We pray that this new ministry context will see many of us grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus as we long to be reunited face to face with our brothers and sisters. We also pray that we may continue to love each other deeply and richly in our new context, that even as so many of our interactions move into an online space people may always know that we are your people by the love we have for one another. Amen

7. An Easter Sunday prayer

Almighty God, you have conquered death through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant us by your grace to set our mind on things above, so that by your continual help our whole life may be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting glory. Amen.