

## **Coronavirus – a message for you, from your local church**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus to be a global pandemic. Since its outbreak in January in Wuhan, China, the world has been slowly engulfed by fear of this invisible but deadly threat.

As the virus has spread, so have the efforts of our Governments to slow the virus. Countries are on lock down, and hundreds of millions of people have been told to stay at home. Normal life has shut down for most of us. Businesses, schools, industries, restaurants, sports, theatres and even churches have all been shut.

Every community must now deal with the crisis, in one way or another.

We members of St. Peter's church wish to express our deep concern and sympathy for all who live in our community at this time. We want you to know that we have committed to praying for you, and that we are looking into ways of showing our care and regard for you. This is especially true if you are among the elderly and most vulnerable in our community.

**If there was ever a time to turn to God in prayer and supplication, this is it. So, we invite you to join us in praying for:**

- Our Government and local authorities who bear the responsibility of confronting this challenge. They cannot afford to get their response wrong.
- WHO and all health professionals who are working to safeguard our public health.
- Industry leaders who must take huge decisions to confront this challenge to our economy.
- The leaders of our local community, who provide care and guidance for those they lead.
- Finally, let us pray for ourselves and our loved ones, for courage and endurance at this most demanding of times.

Christianity is based on hope in a God that does not fail us. We are the Easter People, and know that even in the worst circumstances, God is with us and will hear our prayers. He will answer us.

As Easter approaches, this is a time to let the light of Christ shine His healing rays throughout the world, and throughout our community.

May the Lord, our Chief Shepherd and our Refuge, grant mercy and grace upon the nations of the world in this time of trouble and distress.

We would like to share with you now the following verses which remind us that we are right to trust in God:

*'Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and  
I trust Him.*

*For He will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.  
He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises  
are your armour and protection.'*

### **Psalm 91:1-4, (NLT)**

For I am the Lord your God  
who takes hold of your right hand  
and says to you, Do not fear;  
I will help you.  
Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)

### **Prayer in a Time of Disaster**

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength  
in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.  
Surround us now with your grace and peace  
through storm or earthquake, fire or flood.

By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen,  
sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild,  
and fill us with the hope of your new creation;  
through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.

*By the Rev. John G. Hamilton, FPC, Rochelle, Ill.*

### **Quote of the week:**

Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it. - Helen Keller

