

Call to prayer

We are going to take a break this week from our study series to engage with the call to prayer, from the Baptist Union, to pray for our world during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We will use an acronym of the word PRAY to guide our prayers.

Pause

So we come together and Pause, be still before God. It may help to close your eyes and become aware of your own breathing then **read Psalm 46** aloud.

*Be still and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know.
Be still.
Be.*

Reflect

We reflect on the scale of the outbreak.

We join together with Christians throughout this land and around the world to pray for those who have been affected by COVID-19. We pray for the countries that have suffered the greatest outbreaks: China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, Spain and the USA.

Remember also countries in the two thirds world who do not have access to the resources we have to help us. Pray for the work of BMS and other missionary organisations working in the poorest countries in the world.

We pray that in their time of need that the people of these nations may turn to God in prayer and that they may know the overwhelming and steadfast love of God. **Read Psalm 23**

Ask

Lord, we ask that you would hear our prayers as we cry out for those who are:

- Vulnerable, the ill and the weak in our neighbourhoods.
- Fearful of contracting the virus.
- Lonely and are frightened by the thought of even greater isolation.

We ask that you would give wisdom, encouragement and insight to those leading the scientific response as they seek effective treatments and vaccines to halt the spread of the virus.

We ask that you would strengthen and enable the doctors, nurses and all health professionals as they care for the sick and the frail.

Read Isaiah 40:28-31

Yield

We recognise our own frailty and how inadequate we feel in this time of uncertainty and concern. We hold fast to the hope that we have in God as we seek to make a difference in our community.

*We pray for a sense of calmness and clarity as we face what is ahead.
We pray that we will be beacons of hope to those around us,
And that in all we do we will point people towards Jesus.*

Read Ephesians 3:14-21