

**This week is Christian Aid Week. The following prayers come from Christian Aid.**

### **A prayer for times of isolation**

*'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love. And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far, all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen.

### **A prayer for a global pandemic**

*'Love... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'* (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Loving God, strengthen our innermost being with your love that bears all things even the weight of this global pandemic, even the endurance of watching for symptoms, of patiently waiting for this to pass, watching while we pray, keeping our gaze fixed on you, and looking out for our neighbours near and far. Instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love: for strangers to become friends, for science to source solutions, for resources to be generously shared so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need. May your perfect love that knows no borders cast out any fear and selfishness that divides. May your love that never ends be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and the glory of God Amen."



### **A prayer for the church**

May your love that never fails strengthen the weak, encourage the fearful, calm the anxious, heal the sick through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present, virtual but still connected, apart but still helping. God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

### **A prayer before silence**

Loving God, we seek your presence in the silence beyond words looking to you for comfort, strength, protection and reassurance, breathing with gratitude, holding on to hope, trusting with faith, that you are still God in the midst of the turmoil and that your love reaches to the ends of the earth. Be present with us now. Amen.

### **You can give to the work of Christian Aid :-**

By using the envelope provided (if you have a paper copy). Contact Gerard or post it (cheques only) to Mel Taylor c/o Six Ways Baptist Church, Wood End Road, Erdington, Birmingham B24 8AD.

Or going to:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week)