

For Governments and leaders

- That leaders would humble themselves, and rather than relying on bravado, or advisors, that they would lead these nations back into right paths.
- That they would have wisdom and clarity of thought for all the decisions that have to be made.
- That God would protect them and draw them to himself.

For Medical personnel

- For energy, wisdom, protection, peace of mind, hope, mental welfare, and the ability to function well under prolonged stress.
- For those personnel who have to stay away from family—especially mothers with children
- For adequate resources—beds, ventilators, protective gear
- That the rate of infection will be such that doctors will not have to choose whom to treat.
- For the protection of first responders eg ambulance personnel and for GPs, receptionists, pharmacists etc

For Other front-line areas

- For farmers, retailers, shop staff, hauliers etc—for strength, safety, protection, peace of mind

For the Church

- That God's people would be so filled with **hope and peace** of heart that they would be a radiant beacon.
- They we would be **bold** in our witness, and **loving** in our care—extending compassion and help into the community around us.
- That fellowship might deepen between church members as they care for one another. And especially that isolated Christians would know the very real presence of God with them.
- That we would make good use of the time and grow in our faith.
- That the our churches would deepen in trust and grow in radiant Christlikeness

*“LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear O LORD, **revive** your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; **In wrath remember mercy.**” Hab 3:2*

Day of Prayer & Fasting

in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland



Some words and pointers to spur us on in prayer.

Worship

- Worship our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for his holiness, justice, goodness, mercy and wisdom
- Give thanks that God is sovereign over all—nations, governments, viruses, economies etc.
- That in his mercy he has not dealt with us as our sins deserve.
- That God is ready to hear the cry of his people, and is able to bring good out of evil.
- That God is willing and able to save all who call upon him, delivering from sin, death and hell.
- That God loves us enough to humble us, and that he humbled himself to come to this world to rescue us.

Confession

Jesus reminds us that such events bring a universal call to repentance (Luke 13:1-5). We must examine our hearts and engage in repentance.

Sin in our own lives

- It's easy just to be general and confess a few of the big, obvious sins in our lives. But we should be detailed - [An A-Z of Hidden Sin](#) is a helpful list.
- Consider too: What sinful traits have the current circumstances exposed in our hearts? Short-temper, frustration, misplaced trust, discord, lack of kindness/gentleness/self-control, fretful worry etc.

Sin in the Church

- Our sins in our churches may include – lack of love for our brothers/sisters; lack of love for our communities and the lost;

pride; lack of attentiveness to the Word of God; prayerlessness; apathy; loss of evangelistic zeal; reliance on our abilities rather than a determined pursuit of God's power; failure to warn our leaders, neighbours and society of their perilous condition...

Sin in the Nation

- Confess the unfaithfulness of our nations. They have broken the solemn covenants into which they entered with God. These covenants acknowledged God as the rightful ruler of these islands, and undertook to rule according to his word.
- We have sought to **write God out of national life**. Among many other national sins we have made gods out of money, work, sex and pleasure; idolised our abilities; desecrated the Lord's Day; undermined the family in a multitude of ways; redefined marriage; legislated for the slaughter of the unborn; and promoted sexual immorality of all kinds; celebrated violence, greed, and depravity...
- Such is the appetite for evil that, even as this pandemic is spreading, laws and provisions are being made for the furtherance of abortion.
- Use these scriptural words to shape and guide your prayers...

*"Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. **We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.***

"Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame...

We and our kings, our princes ... are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets."

***"We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."** from Daniel 9*

Thankfulness

- That our God, remains in **absolute control** of all these events, and that we are safe in him, and can urge others to run to him for safety.
- We have a **treasure** that illness can only take us to, not take from us.
- That God has given us many people who are doing so much to hold back, treat, or cure this disease.
- That, in large measure, our children are being spared death, and that so many people seem likely to recover.
- For the **opportunities** to point people to eternal realities.

Supplication

For a Widespread turning to Christ

***"Restore us again, God our Saviour,
and put away your displeasure toward us.***

***Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation."** – Psalm 85*

- Plead that the nations would heed the voice of God and turn in repentance and faith to the Son, that many people would be brought to the point where they cry out to God for salvation.
- That many people would tune in to services broadcast on the internet, that there would be a widespread humbling of hearts and turning to Christ.
- That unconverted family members would see the reality of faith and be converted
- That more people would come to our churches when we meet again physically for worship than met on the day we stopped.

For the Welfare of the sick, weak, vulnerable, grieving

- That God will limit the spread and that those who get it will recover
- That God will provide peace for those who are fearful
- That God will protect those who are especially vulnerable
- For those who are vulnerable in other ways—eg those in situations where domestic violence or abuse is being exacerbated by having to stay at home.
- That God would comfort those who have lost loved ones.