

A prayer as we face the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Living God,

In our hour of need we turn again to you, for we have nowhere else to turn.

We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and again.

We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go.

We thank you that you are not distant from us, but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it;

He understands our worries and our fears.

Help us to respond as your children now.

We pray for this pandemic spreading across our world, remembering all who have lost loved ones, and praying for those seriously ill at this time.

We uphold the National Health Service, as it responds to this added pressure on its already overstretched services.

We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions, who work to help and support people as best they can.

We remember those working behind the scenes, testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients.

We uphold others trying to understand this virus better, working to create an effective remedy.

We pray for our Governments in Westminster and Holyrood, as they work with the best medical advice, to guide us on how we should respond, and what action we should take.

We pray that these guidelines might be taken seriously, and that all would put them into action.

May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst.

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www.meadowbank.church

Dear friends

CANCELLATION OF SUNDAY SERVICES AND ALL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Scottish Government advised that people should minimise social contact by avoiding crowded areas and large gatherings, including religious congregations, and smaller gatherings.

These are unprecedented times which have led to extreme measures to protect people as best possible from Covid-19. The situation will be reviewed but will certainly extend beyond Easter.

You might ask what we can do to help where many people may be lonely or depressed by all the negative news.

- ◇ Keep in touch with people by phone or with Skype or Zoom or WhatsApp on computers
- ◇ Write letters or cards
- ◇ Pray for our leaders, our health services and emergency services
- ◇ Take time on Sunday 22 March to light a candle and join the National Day of Prayer

Blessings to you all

May you know the peace of our Lord Jesus especially at this time of crisis



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**“Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you”**

1 Peter 5:7.

Light a candle



The call to prayer asks everyone to light a candle at 7pm on Sunday as ‘a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.’

Church leaders of all denominations are seeking to quell fears and remind us of God’s presence and love. They write:

“At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.”

Sunday 22nd March Call to Prayer

**Pray for a slowdown
of coronavirus
infections**

The church at Meadowbank will be open on Sundays from 11-12noon as a place where individuals can come to pray. Notices will give clear information about hand washing

Help us to live by faith and not by fear; to build bridges not barriers, and to resist all who would speak ill of any other group.

May we not forget our responsibility to one another, not least to the vulnerable and voiceless in our communities.

Help us to find ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance.

to those with underlying health issues; for any who feel particularly vulnerable. or in danger at present.

As the virus spreads. we pray for the disruption it causes to normal life, bringing new fears and anxieties:

We pray for those who have been laid off as their work disappears;

for financial hardship for individuals and businesses;

for the impact on the economy and pensions, when austerity has already left its mark.

We pray for those whose trips, both for business and pleasure, have been cancelled; and others where events, long anticipated and planned for, have been postponed;

for those making contingency planning for home based work or child care or exams.

May our inconvenience not blind us to others’ loss.

We remember those.

who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes;

for the elderly whose social contacts have been severely curtailed;

help us to find creative ways of keeping in touch, of assuring them they are not forgotten or ignored.

May congregations find new ways of living though this time.

May we not forget our faith, but draw strength from it.

So may our worship be heartfelt, our fellowship deepen. and our service increase.

God of grace and God of mercy, hear our prayers at this time.

Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that: we may carry on our lives as best as we are able, looking out for others, showing love in action, being faithful in prayer,

and bringing encouragement, hope and peace; always trusting in you. our Rock and our Redeemer.

These prayers we bring to you. in Jesus’ name. Amen.