

A prayer in COVID-19 times

By Rev. Dr. Jerome Sahabandhu

God of Life,

We come to you yearning for life amidst another global crisis resulting from the coronavirus; we experience death and sickness, suffering and trauma; we experience self-isolation and social distancing, quarantine and extraordinary self-care. In these times of pandemic, Give us Life, O God.

You are the God of Life.

God of Life,

We bring our heartfelt laments, crying out “how long O Lord, how long should we be patient?” We bring our emotional and mental pains, agonies and struggles; we lift our dilemmas and ambiguities, confusion and interruption of our daily lives. Our routines are broken, schools are closed, restaurants and cafes are empty, and events have been cancelled; we are stuck at home. In these times of scatteredness, Heal us! Give us our daily life back, O God.

You are the God of Life.

God of Life,

We pray for all people who take care of the sick, suffering and dying. We especially lift up all public health personnel and social workers, health educators and researchers who serve selflessly day and night to care for all in need and try to find solutions to save lives. Grant them more and more courage, wisdom and grace, so that they also take care of themselves while serving others. Give us grace, O God.

You are the God of Life.

God of Life,

We bring people of all faiths and of no faith, all people of goodwill, so that everyone shall be realigned and repentant, and transform and change our lives for the love and service of neighbor; help us to ask in our hearts how we can be good neighbors to the other, especially in times of crisis and disaster. Our churches are closed, temples are shut, pilgrimages are called off; we are trying to find new ways to reconnect. Give us community, O God.

You are God of Life.

God of Life,

We pray for all the leaders in power and position, all those who make policies and decisions, so that they shall act prudently yet practically, wisely yet justly, locally yet globally; remind them to take care of the most downtrodden and marginalized in every society. The entire world has inexplicably experienced in a practical way that “we are one humanity; we are all interdependent, we are all connected”! Help us, O God, to engage in community, affirm the Oneness of all, and leave behind all that divides our life together.

You are the God of Life.

God of Life,

You have created order out of chaos, new life out of many crises. In this crisis of the coronavirus, too, we know that you are with us in our chaos and craziness, pandemic and trauma; you are with all humanity and especially with the all those who struggle in this crisis. We know that you, in a mysterious way, will transform everything into good; after the coronavirus ‘we shall never be the same’. Help us to

cling onto that hope.

You are the God of Life.

God of Life,

Deliver us from all evil, liberate us from all ignorance, make us calm amidst the storm; help us remember you call us to faith, to hope and to love.

Motivate us to accompany you in your ongoing mission: the mission of life, of peace, and of justice. Your reign come, O God, your will be done.

You are the God of a New Life!

Amen.