

A form of prayer for the National Day of Prayer and Action

If you are able to do so, you might wish to light a candle near a window.

Pray this opening prayer:

**Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life.
Amen.**

Say Psalm 46.

God is our refuge and strength, ♦
a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, ♦
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters rage and swell, ♦
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, ♦
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed; ♦
God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come and behold the works of the Lord, ♦
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world; ♦
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear
and burns the chariots in the fire.

‘Be still, and know that I am God; ♦
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.’

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Pray for the nation, for those in need, and for those close to you.

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

End with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.