

The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water, likely a lake or reservoir, reflecting the sky. A steep, rocky cliff with sparse vegetation rises from the left side of the water. In the background, a line of trees and a distant horizon are visible under a dramatic sky with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

Welcome from Christ Church Mount Gambier

Finding Peace in a Troubled World

A time for prayer and reflection

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,
peace to those who are far off
and peace to those who are near.

Ephesians 2.17

Let us pray:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

We are a Christian Community

We gather in the name of the God of Peace.
May grace and peace be ours from God the Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes, Lord,
So that we might know the things which make
for healing and peace.

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.

We are not only people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs,
for as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

*Barbara Glasson,
President of the Methodist Conference*

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

First Reading

Colossians 3: 12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PSALM 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
2. He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
3. He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
**for you are with me,
your rod and your staff comfort me.**
5. You spread a table before me in the face of those
who trouble me:
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.**
6. Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

Luke 12: 22-31

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

*A Call
for a
Radically
Different
Church*

This passage is taken from a letter by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and John Sentamu, to the Church of England. Because it is also so pertinent to our situation in Australia, I have made slight alterations so that it speaks to us as well.

Submitted by Sue Christopher

Being a part of the Anglican Church is going to look very different in the days ahead,” they wrote.

“Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day.

“We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

“Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank, ac.care and schemes in our communities which focus on caring for the most vulnerable.

“By our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They added: “This is a defining moment for the Anglican Church. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

Let us affirm our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:





For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

HEALTH WARNING – coronavirus (COVID-19)

[IMPORTANT AUSTRALIA UPDATE]

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.



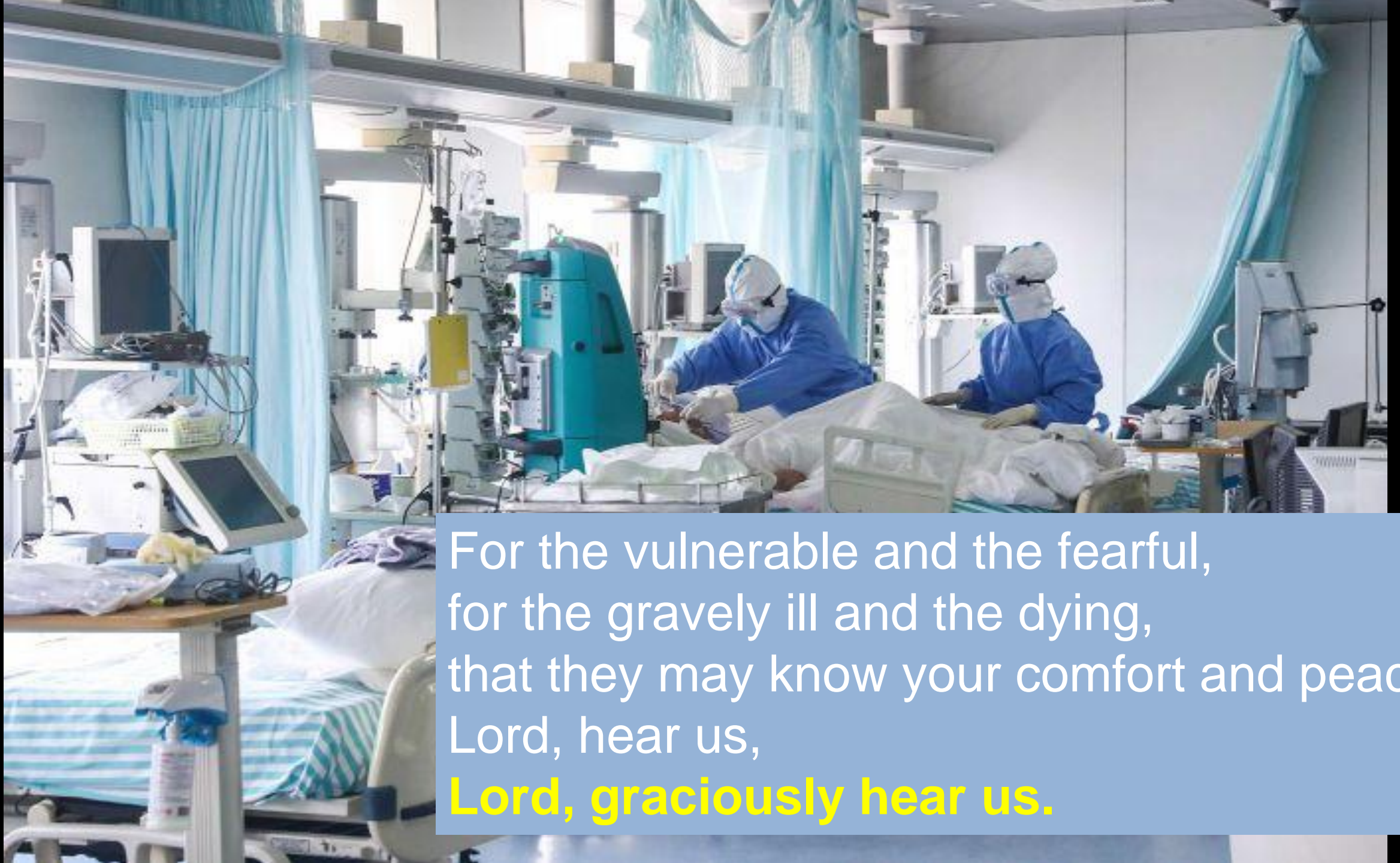
Australian Government
Department of Health

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.





For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
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.**



As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The peace of the Lord
be with us all.

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love so that we are wholly yours and may love each other and grow as a community of faith.

Fill us and use us to share your healing power with those with whom we work, live and worship.

Ignite within us a passion for your Gospel so that we can be beacons of love, justice and mercy using our gifts and talents for your glory.

Come Holy Spirit; renew and empower us so that we can face all things with courage knowing that you are with us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

God will speak peace to his people,
To those who turn to him in their hearts.

Psalms 85.8

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Before you leave each online service, take stock.

Carry with you something worthwhile from this time of worship and prayerful reflection: even if it is just one thought, one word, one idea, one sacred moment, one fragment of prayer, one holy intuition, one recalled memory, one renewed insight, or one glint of new hope.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all and those we love.
Amen.**



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.