**A message to Anglicans around the world from the global leadership of the Anglican Communion**

As governments around the world react and respond to the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic, many people are finding themselves facing unprecedented restrictions on their day-to-day lives.

Many of us will have lived with such restrictions on a temporary basis in our particular country or region over recent years in response to instability, wars, and natural disasters. But for many, such restrictions are new. In any event, the global nature of the restrictions put them on an entirely different scale not seen since the Second World War.

Many provinces of the Anglican Communion have suspended public worship in response to local official advice. This, along with other restrictions people are being asked to face, may be daunting, confusing and upsetting.

The first thing that we want to say is that the suspension of public corporate acts of worship does not mean that we stop worshipping God. We can worship Him and continue to pray both privately and within our families. We have a number of resources to help you pray, including the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, through which we can join together, around the world, to pray for specific dioceses and provinces of our Anglican Communion. You can find these at anglicancommunion.org/prayer.

The second thing we want to say is a reminder to us all to continue to place our trust in God. In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul said: “*I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

And Paul, with Timothy, in their letter to the Church at Philippi, said: “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

In our prayers, in addition to praying for those who are ill, and for those who are lonely, we should pray for wisdom for those in authority and for strength to be given to medical workers. We should do more than pray. We should also act by heeding the advice of our respective national and regional authorities who are working to contain the virus; and we should care for those who are unable to care for themselves.

In preparing this letter, we have consulted with the other primates of the Anglican Communion. We want you to know that we are all praying for you all at this time and we will continue to pray for the whole of God’s Church and God’s World.

The Most Revd and Right Hon Justin Welby

Archbishop of Canterbury

President of the Anglican Consultative Council, Chair of the Primates’ Meeting

The Most Revd Paul Kwong

Archbishop of Hong Kong

Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council

The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit

Archbishop of Kenya

Standing Committee Primates’ Representative for the Africa region

The Most Revd Julio Murray Thompson,

Archbishop of Central de America

Standing Committee Primates’ Representative for the Americas region

The Most Revd Humphrey Peters

Moderator of the united Church of Pakistan

Standing Committee Primates’ Representative for the Asia Region

The Most Revd John Davies

Archbishop of Wales

Standing Committee Primates’ Representative for the Europe Region

The Most Revd Philip Richardson

Archbishop of New Zealand

Standing Committee Primates’ Representative for the Oceania Region