

Prayers in Times of Trouble and Disaster

God is our refuge

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
(from Psalm 46)

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Prayer for peace amidst the storm

Living God, our refuge and strength, even the wind and sea obey your voice.
Put the wind back in its place, and say to the sea: Peace! Be still!
Fill us with great faith, and save us from the surging water,
so that we may tell the good news of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ, our hope in the storm.
(based on Mark 4)

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A Prayer for Rescue, Recovery and Relief workers

God our help and hope when waters rise,
you brought Israel safely through the sea.
Sustain all those who seek to save others,
so that they may repair the ruined cities,
raise up the former devastations,
and be the restorers of streets to live in;
through Jesus Christ, our eternal savior.
(based on Isaiah 58, 61)

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Prayer in Times of Trouble

God of wind and water, stillness and storm,
your Spirit sweeps over the surface of the sea.
Give us faith to seek you in times of trouble.
Reach out your hand to us when we are sinking
so that we may believe and worship you;
through Jesus Christ, Sovereign and Savior.
(based on Matthew 14:22-33)

Prayer in a Time of Disaster

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or flood. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.

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A Prayer in a Time of Distress

Almighty and everlasting God, You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise to you.

Hear our prayer.

We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for those who are ill or are suffering loss and long for your healing touch.

Hear our prayer.

Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken whole, and confirm those who serve them as agents of your love.

Hear our prayer.

To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.

Hear our prayer.

As we begin to rebuild, we commend our neighborhoods to your care. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create a community where your will may be done.

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you watch our ways, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace.

Hear our prayer.

Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted;

Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen.

A Prayer When the Waters are Rising

Lord, all around us the waters are rising.

I feel so helpless, for I cannot stop the rain from falling or the waters from rising.

I feel so powerless, for the current is strong and my body is tired.

I feel so empty, for our possessions are floating away or anchored in the muddy water.

Lord, all around us the waters are rising.

Grant me your strength, since mine is somewhere downstream.

Grant me your patience, since mine is drowning.

Grant me your perspective, since my loss is in replaceable things, not irreplaceable grace.

Give me eyes to see how precious your gifts are: family and friends, faith and mercy.

And Lord, when the waters rise around me in my spirit, and my faith and hope are swept downstream, help me to remember how you got me through this flood.

In Your Son's name. Amen.

(The Rev. John G. Hamilton, FPC, Rochelle, Ill.)