

Candle Prayers

4 July 2021

Lord Jesus we come to you this morning, bearing our heavy loads of cares, because we know that you care. You care about each of us, you care about the least of us.

These past few days it has felt like the world, our country have been thrust into a whirlwind. The storms have buffeted against our lives and have left us gasping for air, afraid that we might drown. We have looked around in debilitating anxiety, some of us have even sniffed the palpable possibility of death. Sadly, some have died. The world is enveloped in an avalanche of storms that swirl and threaten to swallow us. Some of us have echoed the cry of your disciples caught in a storm "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing".

Calm-storming Jesus, awake and bid the waves of the Covid19 pandemic be still. The numbers of the infected rise frighteningly every hour, with them the ever looming spectre of death. So many continue to lose their jobs as the measures to mitigate the risk of infection and death exact a slow death on the already stuttering economy.

Breath-giving Lord look upon those who struggle to breathe in their homes and those who line up for an oxygen cylinder or a bed in our overcrowded hospitals.

Comforting Lord visit those who are gripped in the agonising throes of grief as the body count increases every hour. This made all the more difficult by the feeling of being alone as the wider family and community cannot come closer to share the heavy burden of grief. In their loneliness and their pain may they feel your tangible, storm calming presence Lord, God.

We bring to you the poor whose houses have been blown away in storms in Cape Town and other parts of the country. Images of waterlogged and

submerged shacks have been truly traumatising. Oh Lord, to have that as the reality of any person's life must be truly dehumanising. How are we comfortable in the face of such discomfort Lord?

Lord God we have watched as the winds of change have blown in eSwatini this past week. The choked voice of the voiceless continues to find expression in the streets. The violence exerted through many years of oppression manifest in the violence that sweeps through the streets like a whirlwind, leaving in its wake a trail of destruction. Calm-restoring Lord we pray for calm and peace in that land.

Lord we have watched with bated breath the gathering storms in Nkandla, coalescing around the person of the former president Zuma. Thank you for the easing of tensions today as the ConCourt agrees to hear the appeal. We pray Lord God that the fallout from the problems around Mr. Zuma shall not plunge our country into a storm of violence especially in KwaZulu Natal.

Oh Love that will never let us go; oh Love that casts out our fears - come into us. Come into us and help us to remain hopefully loving in the face of debilitating fears.

Finally we pray breath-giving Lord to breathe your spirit into us. Let your Holy Spirit awaken us back to life so that we will be a life giving force in the face of death, let your Holy Spirit inspire us to love even the least of these. Breathe on us and embolden us to confront the death-dealing forces with your truth, and to work for that day when everyone shall have adequate shelter against the vagaries of the weather, nourishing food to eat and adequate medical care.

So breath into us Lord Jesus so we shall be the bulwark against the storms of life especially for the poor and the marginalised.

Amen.