

Peace Lutheran Church

“Peace Through Christ”

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EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 3, 2021

As We Gather We've heard of people being afraid of the dark. We've never heard of anyone being afraid of the light! Darkness is the realm of mystery, danger, sin, and death. Light has to do with revelation, salvation, forgiveness, and life. The word “epiphany” describes enlightenment and manifestation of truth. The visit of the magi in the Epiphany Gospel demonstrates the Gentile world being drawn to the light of salvation, through the Jews to the whole world, for “God so loved the world....” Christ is the light of God’s love, forgiveness, grace, mercy, and salvation, able to save everyone from the darkness of sin to live in God’s marvelous light.

Attention Visitors We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. This holy meal is intended for Christians who acknowledge their need of God’s forgiveness in their lives. The Bible teaches that Christ’s body and blood are received with the elements of bread and wine and that Christians need to examine themselves before receiving this holy meal. (1 Cor. 10 & 11). This meal further expresses a unity of faith as we gather at one table to receive the assurance of God’s forgiveness through the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament. We welcome baptized Christians to commune with us, those who believe and confess this same faith and understanding of the sacrament and of the Christian life. Persons who desire to receive grape juice select from the darker glasses. If you have any further questions concerning the sacrament, please ask to speak to the Pastor.



“Westward
leading, still
proceeding

Guide us to
thy perfect
light.”

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshipping God on high.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the
peoples;

**People: but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon
you.**

Pastor: In Christ Jesus we have boldness,

People: and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

Pastor: He delivers the needy when he calls,

People: the poor and him who has no helper.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Mindful of God's mercy, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

(There is silence to call to mind your sins.)

People: Merciful God, we confess to You the darkness of our thoughts, words, and deeds shrouded by sin and fear. We cannot free ourselves, and so we come to You asking You to shed Your light of mercy and grace on us that we may know and receive Your forgiveness, light, and life. Amen.

Pastor: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." *1 Peter 2:9*

A light has come into the darkness, Jesus the light of God's love. For His sake, and by your sincere repentance and confession, all your sins have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE "The People That in Darkness Sat"



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+THE WORD OF GOD+

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

"Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL.Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ""But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

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MESSAGE

When The New Dawn Dawns On You:
Wise Men Don't Wait Until Eternity To Have Their Epiphany
Matthew:1-12

CONFESSION OF FAITH (NICENE CREED)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and
ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and
the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

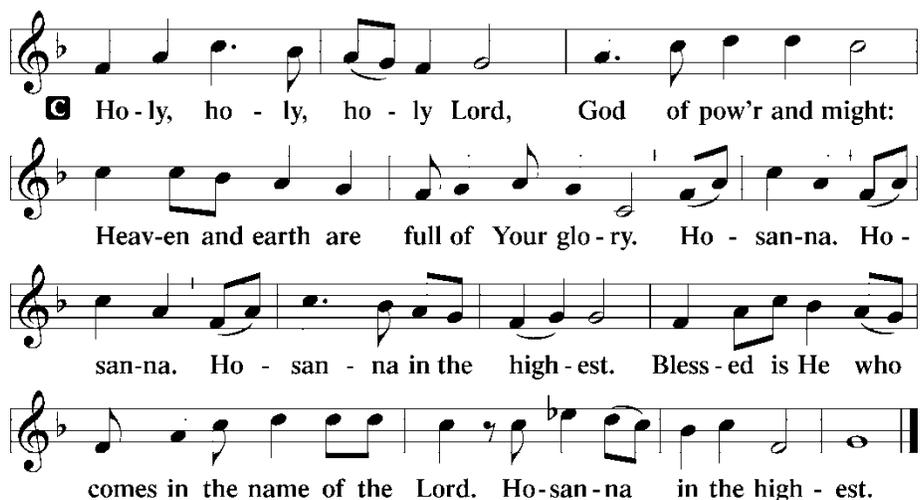
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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, and the power and the
glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is My + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

“Let Our Gladness Have No End”



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

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“From East to West”



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

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“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 118:1*

Pastor: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that in this sacrament You have refreshed us in our journey through this earthly wilderness. Strengthen our faith that we may be blameless at the second Advent of our Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who promised, the Son who came to save, and the Spirit who sends us out in love—bless you now and always.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

CLOSING HYMN "As with Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Attendance: Christmas Eve 108
12/27/20 76

THIS WEEK AT PEACE JANUARY 3, 2021

Today: 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service outside
1:30 p.m. New Life Church

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. LifeLight Bible Study

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Traditional Services outside
1:30 p.m. New Life Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

JOIN A BIBLE STUDY:

Women's Bible Study continues this Tuesday, January 5, with a study on the book of Revelation. Please contact Connie Morris (805)987-5116 to join or for more information.

Men's Bible Study This new study on "Proverbs *God's Gift of Wisdom*", meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 8:30. Call Dave Hutter (805)386-7007 to join or for more information. Please pick up your copy of the study in the church office.

LifeLight is beginning a new 9 week LifeLight Bible study on The Epistles of John, Wednesday, January 6th at 10 AM. This study will include: The Apostle of Love; Getting to Know God...and Yourself; Love and Knowledge in the End Times; Like Father, Like Son; We Love Because He First Loved Us; and Mission in the Church. This is a Zoom study, all are welcome. If you would like to join this study, please contact Blaine or Diana Wanke 805-482-7524.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our **Next Voters Meeting** slated for **January 31st at 2 PM**. This will be a zoom call with call in information being distributed before the call. We look forward to you attending as we share how God is providing for Peace Lutheran Church and Pre-school during this difficult Covid-19 year. Plus this is a good time also to see everyone – at least in a virtual setting!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated toys to the Happy Birthday Mason, 6th annual toy drive. We partnered with our preschool and were among 5 other collection sites in Camarillo. There were enough toys collected for all of the foster children 14 years and under in our county to receive a gift for Christmas. Thank you again for your generous support! Social Concerns

THE FOOD BANK at St. Columba's Episcopal Church's has remained opened during the pandemic and has had a large increase in demand. The church office is open from 9 to 12 Monday through Friday. They give out food every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9-10am for seniors and 5-6 pm for families. Below is a list of items most needed, but any nonperishable, non-expired donation is appreciated. Please take your donation directly to St. Columba's. Most needed items: Cereal, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, canned meats, beans, rice, and pasta.

Thank you! Social Concerns

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January - March are now available for you to pick up either at the check-in table or in the church office during the week.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have a prayer request please call Sandi Stepp at: 805-625-0479 or e-mail footstepps@verizon.net.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR has resumed rehearsals. If you are interested in joining please contact Linda LaJeunesse
805-443-3527.

THE 2021 FLOWER CHART is posted on the white board as you come to the check-in station. Please bring a pen to sign up for the Sunday(s) of your choice. (After signing-up, please remember to use the hand sanitizer on the check-in table.) Two signups are available for each Sunday. The arrangements are \$35.00 each, and the check or money can be placed in the offering plate. Please note on the check or on the envelope that it is designated for "Flowers". Following the service, you may take your arrangement home.

Remember in Your Prayers

For health and healing: Ashley (Sandi Stepp's niece), Lili Baehr, Terry Breckinridge, Crystal (Phil Deck's niece), Marshall Denninger, Bruce Fraser, Father of Gail Goesch, Beverly Gandy, Ken Haugrud, Damon Hermann (friend of Greg Olewiler), John Hollenbeck (friend of Eunice Harter), Vicki Hutter, Karen Johnson, Dale Larson, Dawn Logan (Pat Massey's niece), Mrs. Mai, (friend of Greg Olewiler), Scott McComas, Ryan Scott Morrison, Ken Nipstad, Gene O'Neal, Jim Pedersen, Joanne Riccardi (friend of Pat Massey), Becky Rodriguez (Luther's Attic worker), Tim Schmidt, Shane Shelton (relative of Melissa Hamilton), Joyce Snow, Llewyn Rae Spencer (infant grandson of Gary & Char Spencer) and his parents, Gertrude Stenke, Leslie Stenke, Bev Toro, Earl Totten (Cheryl Sanders' brother), Jon Volpei (Connie Morris' son), Carol Yung, Sue Zinger.

Pray for all military men and women especially: Jared Bautista, Jacob Chiles, Andrew Geib, Daniel Gross, Michael Hanson, Brian Miller, Kevin Palos, Kevin Schleicher, Stephen Volpei, Amy Waddell, Lucas Wentlandt. Also remember their families in your prayers.

Please keep the nation and all those in authority in your prayers, along with front line healthcare workers. We will get through this together, because we never go through anything alone.