

# The Chief Rabbi's Prayer

## 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021/23<sup>rd</sup> Tevet 5781

*The Chief Rabbi has composed this special prayer which can be recited at home at a time of your choosing. In addition, Psalms 91, 121 and 130 (Green Siddur pages 582, 510 and 516) can be added.*

אָבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים

Heavenly Father,

We turn to You at this time of deep global concern, to bestow Your mercy upon all the inhabitants of our vulnerable world, which is now so seriously afflicted.

Almighty God, who sustains the living with lovingkindness, supports the fallen and heals the sick, grant consolation to the bereaved families and send a speedy and complete recovery to all who have contracted the virus, as the Prophet Jeremiah declared:

כִּי אֶעֱלֶה אֶרְכָּה לָךְ וְיִמְכֹּתֶיךָ אֶרְפָּאךְ, נְאֻם הַשֵּׁם

“For I will restore health unto you, and I will heal you of your wounds, says the Lord”.

Bless with strength those who are suffering. Bless with resilience those in isolation. Bless with hope those who are despondent. Bless with wisdom all those who administer the vaccine and bless with compassion all those who provide comfort.

Bless the leaders of our nations. Give them and their advisors knowledge and foresight to act with wisdom and sincerity for the wellbeing of all whom they serve.

Bless the doctors, nurses, all healthcare professionals and key workers who tirelessly seek to heal and help those affected, and in so doing put themselves at risk.

Open our hearts in prayer and our hands in generosity to guarantee that the physical distance this virus creates between us will be bridged through compassion and kindness.

Almighty God of healing and hope, at this time of heightened global awareness of our mutual interdependence, enable all of humankind to appreciate the strength that comes from being united in concern and love, rather than divided with hate and prejudice. As we look to the future, may You endow all people with the capacity to build and sustain societies of unity, tolerance, harmony and peace.

O Lord, our Rock and Salvation, lead us speedily from despair to hope, from fear to trust and from the dread of death to the celebration of life.

וְאֲנִי תַפְלִיתִי-לָךְ הַשֵּׁם, עַת רְצוֹן

May this prayer of mine come before You at a propitious time.

יְכֻן יְהִי רְצוֹן

And may this be Your will,

Amen.

