



THE GATHERING CHURCH

Writing Your Own Collect

As followers of Christ, we hear from him through the Scriptures, and we speak to him through prayer. You can pray extemporaneously, inspired by the Holy Spirit, unscripted, and as a conversation. You can also pray the same prayer that others are praying, **collecting** our needs and presenting them before God. As you notice, both styles happen in our service. As you continue praying on your own for the needs of the community, **let us come together and write our own collects to be shared and prayed, specifically for this time of loss, fear, and uncertainty surrounding COVID. Feel free to write specific collects, so that your requests are written and your brothers and sisters local, can agree with you in prayer.**

The Breakdown of the Collect

All collects follow the same outline.

1. An address to God,
2. A request
3. The call for the power of God through either praise of the full Trinity, or through Jesus Christ.
4. The joint Amen, which is important as Amen means a **collective** "So be it!"

Example Collects from the Book of Common Prayer

For the Medical Professions (BCP 2019, Pg. 661)

(1) Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: **(2)** Continue in our hospitals his gracious work among us Especially at Spartanburg Regional Medical center; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; **(3)** through Jesus Christ our Lord. **(4)** Amen.

For the Unemployed (BCP 2019, Pg. 660)

(1) Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. **(2)** Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive a just reward for their labor; **(3)** through Jesus Christ our Lord. **(4)** Amen.

A Sample Collect for COVID-19

Tips: Paul's letters are full of amazing addresses to God.

- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies and God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Cor: 3-4)

(1) Father of mercies and God of all comfort, send now upon your people suffering from COVID-19, the presence of your peace, healing that comes from you, and security in knowing that they are known by you. Cover all medical personnel to serve with the gifts you've given them, but to also remain without infection themselves. Send down your blessing and heal the land. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of your dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reference Texts

<https://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org/prayer-formats-collect/>

<https://anglicanpastor.com/the-collects/>