

For those who mourn.

God of all mercy, giver of all comfort;
look graciously, we pray, on those who mourn
the loss of loved ones through the earthquake and Tsunami
in the Indian Ocean.

Casting all their cares on you,
may they know the consolation of your love;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia.

Our Father in heaven,
healer of the broken-hearted,
look in pity and compassion upon all
whose joy has been turned into mourning.
Comfort them, and draw them closer to each another in their
common sorrow.

Dwell with them, and be their refuge
until the day breaks and the shadows flee away;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia.

For Ourselves.

Eternal God,
we pray for ourselves as we pray for all who died in the
Tsunami disaster.

We stand where earth and heaven meet,
where life is brought to death,
and death is made the gate to glory.
Deliver us from fear and doubt,
from despair and unbelief,
and bring us to the light of your presence.

Grant us that peace which the world cannot give,
so that we with them may trust in you
and find our life in you. Amen.

*From: Funeral Services of the Christian Churches in England, Canterbury Press,
Norwich, 2002*

O God, we are stunned.

We cannot take it in.

It seems unreal and yet all too real.

Save us from simply blaming ourselves and others;
bear with us the pain and guilt of what has happened;
and give us the healing
of wounds that now run deep.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Funeral Services, ibid

Where, O God, were you?
Did you not care?
Have you hidden from us all hope and believing?

Our hearts and minds reel,
our thoughts and speech outrun reason
and we cry out in pain.

O God, where are you?
Do not hide your face from us.
Do not leave us without comfort or solace.

When we run to the ends of the earth,
when we rage in the dark of the night,
meet us there
and grant us peace, and hope enough
to entrust all who have died through the Tsunami to you.
With all who suffer today we cry to you.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer. Amen.

Funeral Services, ibid

PRAYERS FOR ALL AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

Lord, we pray not only for those whose lives have been darkened by disaster over recent days, but also for those whose faith has been shaken; for those who stand bewildered and fearful in the midst of tragedy; for the injured, the bereaved, and the destitute.

We commend to your grace all who are seeking to help and heal the injured, and to comfort and calm the bereaved.

From you alone can come the word that will lift them above their darkness. Answer, O Lord, the questions in their minds; and assure them that though disaster is not of your will, you are present with them in their suffering and sorrow, and can enable them to find purpose, hope and peace again. Amen.

Stanley Pritchard, from New Parish Prayers, Ed. Frank Colquhoun, Hodder & Stoughton, London, Sydney, Auckland, 1999

Most merciful God, in the midst of natural disaster
we took to you in hope and trust,
acknowledging that there is much in life
beyond our present understanding.
Accept our compassion for the suffering;
bless those who working for their relief;
and show us what we can do to share in their task,
as servants of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning, Noon and Night, from New Parish Prayers, ibid

Occasional Prayers

All things look to you, O Lord,
To give them their food in due season:
Look in mercy on your people,
and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions
have been destroyed by the sweeping seas.
In your mercy restore your creation and heal the land.
So guide and bless all your people,
that all may enjoy the fruit of the earth
and give you thanks with grateful hearts,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Occasional Prayer No. 12, A Prayer Book for Australia.

God of mercy and pity,
remember the homeless, the destitute, the sick, the grieved,
and all who have none to care for them.
Heal those who are broken in body or spirit,
and turn their sorrow into joy.
Help us to minister to their needs,
For the love of your Son,
Who for our sake became poor,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Occasional Prayer No. 24, A Prayer Book for Australia.

Suggested Bible Readings

Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 40
Romans 8:18-27

A Blessing

All our problems,
we send to the cross of Christ.

All our difficulties,
we send to the cross of Christ.

All the devil's works,
we send to the cross of Christ.

All our hopes,
we set on the risen Christ.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and scatter the darkness before your path;
and the blessing...

A Prayer Book for Australia.

Gracious God,
nothing in death or life,
nothing in the world as it is,
nothing in the world as it shall be,
nothing in all creation
can separate us from your love.
Jesus commended his spirit into your hands at his last hour.
In your hands we leave all who have died suddenly and
unprepared.
Grant that we, with all your saints,
may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of
your kingdom. **Amen**

A commendation from A Prayer Book for Australia, modified by the Revd Dr Charles Sherlock.