

Ethiopia Raises Its hands to God

Oh God Almighty, we stand before to beg for forgiveness. Neither Ethiopia's economy nor its health power can defend its poor people from the gathering clouds; only you can. We have undoubtedly disappointed you and thus kneel before you to grant us your mercy.

We are poor, we have no power and we have no skills and knowledge to withstand the devastation of the coronavirus epidemic that the most powerful rich countries could not. But as it said in the bible in times of trial and tribulation, Ethiopia raises its



hands towards you and you have spared and protected from visible and visible enemies. Ethiopia's hands are stretched not with despair but everlasting faith that its people, your children will not perish because you will spread your wings of mercy and protect them.

In God the Almighty, Amen

Leaders of the faithful in Ethiopia gathered to pray; the Orthodox Tewahdo, The Moslem, the Catholic Church, Denomination of the Protestant Faith stood before the camera and asked for forgiveness of the people. They then prayed in one spirit; the message from the different denominations was basically the same. Ethiopia has placed all its faith in the hands of God. There is very little else it can do; it is too poor and too powerless to defend itself against the coronavirus epidemic.

Poignant moment that brought memories and voices of the past; I could hear my parents stories of dark times when God was angered by men and unleashed punishment on earth. But because of the prayers of the faithful in the monasteries, God listened and forgave for children to grow and do live better.

I guess, there is really very little Africa can do, but pray. One may dismiss this as fatalistic, but if the people listen to their faith leaders, observe the minimum precautions accessible and doable and are then less fearful and anxious, it is a blessing. In a country where there is no water to clean one's hand, and chaos is the order of the day, infection prevention is moot.