

Strength for the Journey

Prisoners Week 19/11 - 25/11

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those who are held in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love:

prisoners, their families and friends,
prison staff, chaplains and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by
the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly,
to love mercy, and walk humbly together with Christ
in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.



Day One

Day Two

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Matthew 11: 28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Loving God, we thank you that you give us strength. In life's struggles, you are holding us and guiding us. Thank you that you do not leave us, but are always there helping us. We pray for those who feel isolated, alone and without hope. We pray they will feel you close, and they will know they are not alone. We pray that they will know they are not facing these struggles alone but that you are helping them, and upholding them.

God, thank you that you give us rest. When the journey is tiring, we pray we will remember You standing with us, sharing the yoke. We pray for those who are weary on their journey. Specifically for those who have been affected by crime, abuse and neglect. We pray they will look to you and lay down these burdens, that they will know you share that load, and give rest. Help them experience the freedom only you can give.

If you feel alone today, why not speak to someone - a chaplain, minister, priest, friend, or God. There are people who care.

www.prisonersweek.org.uk

Support those affected by imprisonment by signing up to The Charter.

<https://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/charter>

Day Three

Day Four

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Mighty God, thank you for your heart of justice. We thank you that you care about victims in all capacities. We particularly pray for those who are scared, or feel like they are not heard. We pray that forgiveness, conversation and understanding can grow. Will those who have been harmed know your love close, and those who have harmed others know the freedom of turning to you, and forgiveness. Their story is not finished yet. We also pray for restorative justice in Scotland. We pray that this will develop, and will impact lives.

God, thank you that even in our brokenness, you are still gracious and perfect. We pray for all involved in the justice system in Scotland. We pray for your mighty wisdom, and conviction to become evident in this. From the police and courts, to the prison staff who care for those sent to prison. We pray also for the attitude of the public towards the most vulnerable in our society. Let us see these people through your eyes, and not our own judgements.

To find out more about Restorative Practices go to:

www.prisonersweek.org.uk/resources

Help us to see things through your eyes. Why not request a speaker to learn more about the reality of who gets sent to prison:

www.prisonersweek.org.uk/contact

Day Five

Day Six

Micah 6:8 He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Lord, thank you for guiding us on how to act justly and mercifully. We pray we will not ignore this, but come alongside people on all paths of life. We pray for those who are coming to the end of sentences, and being released. Help us, and our churches become a safe and welcoming place for people. We pray we will not become closed off, but we will be open to helping those around us on their journeys.

Lord, we thank you that even in the darkest moments, you guide and care for us. We pray for those who currently feel like the valley they are in is too big, and there is too much. We pray you show them your light, and give them strength to keep going. Thank you that You never leave us, but are with us in the valley as well as the mountaintop. Bring support, and people alongside those who are struggling within all prisons, and those affected by imprisonment, so they know they are not alone, and there are people who want to help.

Why not ask your church or organisation to sign up to the Charter to show your support for people coming out of prison. See:

www.prisonersweek.org.uk/charter

For support go to:

www.prisonersweek.org.uk/support

Day Seven

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak.

Thank God for His grace which each one of us can experience through the love of Christ on the cross – may the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Go back to the beginning and say the Prisoners Week Prayer to end the week.

