

Anti Poverty Sunday

Prayers

We encourage you to pray on October 17. Sometimes when we see and hear so much bad news about poverty, injustice and conflict around the world, we feel angry or powerless, and wonder why God allows so much suffering. But God does care. We have written prayers with a variety of styles – please use or adapt them

Reader reads aloud Isaiah Chapter 3, verses 13 – 15:

The Lord is ready to state his case; he is ready to judge his people. The Lord is bringing the elders and leaders of his people to judgement. He makes this accusation: You have plundered vineyards, and your houses are full of what you have taken from the poor. You have no right to crush my people and take advantage of the poor. I, the sovereign Lord Almighty, have spoken.

Prayer:

Lord God, you created all people as special and equal, yet we live in a world where there is great injustice. We know this grieves your heart and we ask your forgiveness for our complacency. Too often, we shrug our shoulders and do nothing or we blame poor people themselves for their suffering. Sometimes our behaviour and attitudes help to perpetuate injustice.

O God, stir our hearts to action. Help us to be full of compassion. Just as Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem and healed those who cried out to him, let us be people who cry out for justice and spread the good news of your kingdom.

We pray through Jesus our Lord, *Amen*.

Reader reads aloud Isaiah Chapter 58, verses 6 – 12



Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives. Then my favour will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you; my presence will protect you on every side. When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord, that you are a God who cares for the hungry and oppressed. You have a father and mother's heart and like a parent you want to bless all your children. Help us to be obedient to your command that we share what we have and fight against injustice. Help us to be people who restore ruined houses and rebuild walls, so we can proclaim that you are a mighty and just. May your light shine like the morning sun in our needy world.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the light, *Amen*



Micah Challenge is a global Christian campaign which speaks out for justice for the poor (Micah 6:8)
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A Prayer for Justice:

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
Grant us a vision of our world as your love would make it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*(adapted from "An Invitation to Prayer"
www.invitationtoprayer.org/prayers_justice.html)*

Prayer:

O God,
Open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
Open our ears that we may hear their cries;
Open our hearts that we may feel their anguish and their joy.
Let us not be afraid to defend the oppressed, the poor, the powerless, because of the anger and might of the powerful.
Show us where love and hope and faith are needed, and use us to bring them to those places.
Open our ears and eyes, our hearts and lives, that we may in these coming days be able to do some work of justice and peace for you. *Amen.*

Source: Sabeel Centre

Prayer:

Father God, help the helpless, strengthen the fearful, comfort the sorrowful, bring justice to the poor and peace to all nations.
May our hearts, like yours, be pierced with sorrow for the evils of the world. Lord God, help your Church bring hope in times of trouble for all who are oppressed by injustice and violence.
Scatter the proud in their conceit, cast down the mighty from their power and lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things.
We pray in the name of Jesus who gives us hope, *Amen*

Prayer:

This prayer uses the words of the Micah Call.
Our dear God and Father, we admit that we have neglected to remember the poor. Forgive us, we pray.
Help us, as followers of Jesus, to work together to pursue justice, be passionate about kindness and walk humbly with you, our God. May our world be transformed in every area by your love.
Our dear God and Father, we admit that we have been arrogant as a nation. Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to be agents of hope for and with the poor and to work with others to hold our leaders accountable in securing a more just and merciful world. *Amen*

Prayer Ideas:

Please pray

- for trouble spots around the world.
- for the Federal Government that has just been elected – that it would act with compassion and justice
- for any friends who work in areas of poverty and great need – that God would continue to inspire and sustain them.
- for Micah Challenge – that it would be a powerful voice, reminding governments to act for the poor
- for churches in Australia to be caring, faithful models of God's love