



# A Template for Prayers of the People



Use this template in a worship service to raise awareness about human trafficking.

*by the Rev. Staci Stought*

God of Justice and Mercy, We lift before you prayers for our world, your church, and your people, especially those who are suffering under the harm of human trafficking.

A: Lead your church, O Lord, to break the silence around human trafficking. Give us courage to name this sin in our prayers, Bible studies, and missions. Let Your people be known for truth-telling and compassion. Empower Your church to proclaim the good news of Your freedom and restoration. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us, O Lord, to be good stewards of Your land and waters. Move us to protect and care for all that you have made, so that future generations can flourish. Your bounty is set all around us-help us to rejoice in it, care for it, and praise You as the Giver of all creation. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Encourage the leaders of all nations, O Lord, towards cooperation with one another. Give insight to see the global connections of harm in human trafficking. Grant them compassion to dismantle systems of oppression through fairer wages and equitable education for all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: O Lord, provide for those bound by trafficking. Hold them close and send them protection. Protect children betrayed by those meant to love them; who wander unsafe streets. Bring healing to the sick, and comfort for all who mourn. Watch over those forced to flee their homes because of war or persecution, and guard them of what is typical throughout their journeys: of hunger, sexual violence, and exploitation. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: O Lord, grant peace to those who feel unseen, who suffer silently. Heal bodies, minds, and spirits. Surround the oppressed with safer communities of care and love. Grant protection whose bodies are weary. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Grant peace to all in our community burdened by life's troubles, O Lord. We pray especially this morning for those in our own faith community who are affected by violence, grief, and oppression. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks, O Lord, for the saints who have gone before us, in our own families and faith communities-whose lives have strengthened our own faith. May their example inspire us to trust in your promises. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Faithful God, we give thanks for all who work to end human trafficking: advocates, social workers, medical staff, and law enforcement. Bless their work with wisdom and perseverance. Strengthen organizations that provide safety, education, and opportunity. Let Your spirit guide all efforts toward the liberation of Your people. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Staci is the founder of Unnamed No More, a non-profit ministry that helps churches to address gender-based violence through dialogue and actionable steps. She is a retired Sexual Assault Police Officer with specialized forensic expertise in Child Abuse. She currently serves as the Pastoral Care Minister at Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, while pursuing her Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary. Staci has been endorsed for Word and Sacrament Ordination for the ELCA. [www.safechurchinitiative.com](http://www.safechurchinitiative.com)*

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