
#STOPSLAVERY

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY 2021

October 18th

Resources
for
churches

 **WE SEE YOU.**
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

#STOPSLAVERY

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY

CHURCH RESOURCES

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1. BIBLE READINGS

- 1 Psalm 146:5-10
- 2 Proverbs 31: 8-9
- 3 Isaiah 58
- 4 Amos 5:8-15
- 5 Matthew 22:34-40
- 6 James 1:26-27, James 2:14-17, James 5:1-4

2. HYMNS & SONGS

Songs of praise

O for a thousand tongues to sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-dEfvz6Vms>

The Servant King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQiLEO4D5s>

The Compassion Hymn, Kristyn Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMR85VnEluM>

Lord of all Hopefulness

[\(51\) Lord of all hopefulness - YouTube](#)

And can it be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Fyg>

Songs of commitment

Jesus Christ is waiting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJCEhs5nqeQ>

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

[\(51\) Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind :: The Choir of the Abbey School, Tewkesbury - YouTube](#)

2. HYMNS & SONGS /continued

O Jesus I have promised

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuxh6bSJXOY>

Let there be love

[\(51\) Let there be love shared among us - YouTube](#)

Let there be peace on earth -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_DxNpW1kHQ

God of Justice, Tim Hughes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TCh31xg4vA>

Songs of lament

Take Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0XqP4jP-2g>

Everlasting Arms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvNfjLmlvil>

There is a Higher Throne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAGX9iWQ8kl>

3. AN INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this service in which we are alerted to the shadows which conceal from us those in slavery and those being exploited both locally and across the world.

We reflect upon the five senses, considering how in recalling the weak and the oppressed in modern slavery, we stop, see, listen and reach out to touch as we respond to those silent, crying voices.

We hope that, as God's agents, we might help to wipe away every salty tear from their eyes. As we do so, we recall our own inadequacies and mistakes and pray for courage to speak out fearlessly for all who are vulnerable, remembering that we are each made in the image of God and loved equally by our creator.

4. A CONFESSION

God be gracious to us and bless us.

We confess the times when we have not let others feel the warmth of your love shining through us.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May your ways be heard and seen upon earth.

We acknowledge our blindness to the needs of all who are oppressed or enslaved.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

As we taste your goodness, we confess the injustices we ourselves have perpetrated, knowingly and unknowingly, against those who are invisible and have no voice in this world.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May the God who rescues us from our sins, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

4. A CONFESSION /continued

OR

Holy God, as we gather to know you in worship, we acknowledge our easy indifference to those who are exploited as they provide goods and services which are only valued according to price, not with regard to those who create them.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

We pray for all who are trapped in forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced begging, domestic servitude, forced organ donation, county lines drug trading, and forced marriage.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

We ask that we might learn better to play our part in noticing the unnoticed, reaching out to the exploited, and changing values and behaviours in ourselves, our communities, and in our nations policies and practices.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

All: AMEN

5. PRAYERS

Lord, you are a God who sets the captives free.

Your Spirit searches restlessly for those in despair, that they may find the life you are calling them to.

We pray for those who are being trafficked and callously put to work in our region.

On the cross, you were powerless and subject to the cruelty of others. Look with mercy on those who suffer this way.

May we, who are blinded by the shallow distractions of daily life, feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of all grace, whose love desires the flourishing of all Your children, send us out to witness to this transforming power and to be agents of such amazing Grace, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

Amen.

5. PRAYERS /continued

A County Lines Psalm

The gang leader is my shepherd, I shall not ask.
He makes me lie down in unheated flats;
He leads me beside needle-strewn stairwells;
He enslaves my soul.
He leads me down windswept streets
For his own profit.
As I walk down the darkest alley, I feel evil;
For he is with me;
My phone and my stash, they cling to me.
He prepares every deal for me in the presence of
my enemies;
My head it drips with sweat;
My water bottle is empty.
Surely ruthlessness and cruelty shall stalk me
All the days of my life,
And I shall live in an unfurnished home
My whole short life.

5. PRAYERS /continued

Almighty God, Creator of all, help us to share our trust in your love with those in whom your precious image is damaged through brutal exploitation and unthinking indifference.

May our eyes be opened to see the signs of suffering, so often subtly hidden in our midst.

May our hearts be opened to reach out with care and comfort.

May our voices be raised to champion the needs of those who are hurting and to challenge the complacencies and criminality that keeps crushing your children.

Inspire and empower us in the grace of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

Amen

This prayer was written by Bishop Alastair Redfern and taken, with permission, from Slavery-Free Communities (edited by Dan Pratt).

5. PRAYERS /continued

Holy God,

You enabled your people to escape from slavery and learn to live more fully in your Promised Land.

Inspire your Church to work for freedom for all who are enslaved in our midst today.

Give us grace to bear the light of Christ to all who are suffering in slavery.

And lead us to reach out with care and compassion that your saving love may be made known, and your healing presence provide blessing and new life.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord who, for our sake took the nature of a slave, humbled himself and died on the cross, yet rose again to bring new life to all who seek freedom and fulfilment.

Amen

This prayer was written by The Most Revd Justin Welby and taken, with permission, from Slavery-Free Communities (edited by Dan Pratt)

5. PRAYERS /continued

Father, we know from your Word that you care for all people but especially for the outcast, the dispossessed and the exploited. We recognise in our own lives the times we have not listened to you and have acted in such a way as to add to their exploitation. We are sorry for this. Please forgive us.

Help us to see those within our communities who are exploited; help us to understand how to care for them and how we and our church community can show your care.

Help us to act and work in such a way that we can challenge injustice and break the chains of exploitation.

Help us to be with the oppressed.

Remind us to care for them.

Father, please help us also to help those who seek you.

We pray that we might be a light to your Church and our communities as we respond to your Word and seek your righteousness in our lives.

Please hear us as we seek to rebuild our communities, according to your will.

Amen.

This prayer was written by Caroline Virgo and taken, with permission, from Slavery-Free Communities (edited by Dan Pratt)

Alternative prayers can be found at: [The Clewer Initiative | Prayers for ending modern slavery](#)

6. A LAMENT USING OUR SENSES

We still ourselves before Almighty God, as we come into his presence.

Pause

As we approach this time of prayer for those exploited, bruised and weary, may we, bare foot draw near to you, sensing the holy ground on which we stand, shoulder to shoulder with all for whom coercion and control dominates their lives.

**We weep and wail and look to you, the Lord of hosts.
Lord, turn deep darkness into the morning.**

We see you; we don't see you; we look but we lack visual acuity to recognise the suffering before our eyes.

God, help us to see our vulnerable brothers and sisters as you see them. Open our eyes, our hearts and our souls to recognise the vulnerable and all who are precious in your sight.

**We weep and wail and look to you, the Lord of hosts.
Lord, turn deep darkness into the morning.**

6. A LAMENT USING OUR SENSES /continued

Heavenly Father, we hear your command to love our neighbour as ourselves. Open our ears in a new way during anti-slavery week.

May the bells that ring out across our nation, appeal to the ears of those for whom are unaware of their complicity in this crime.

May we listen afresh through the silence, allowing our heads and hearts to respond to how you are calling us to action; in our own diocese and county and to the cries ringing from all the corners of our global community.

**We weep and wail and look to you, the Lord of hosts.
Lord, turn deep darkness into the morning.**

Lord we hold today before you;

- *The 11-year-old, wearing a mask, with cotton wool in his ears, armed with a shovel to mine gold underwater, dizzy from oil fumes from leaking machinery.*
- *The 14-year-old, feeling his way through the dark and deep waters fearful that the pit walls will collapse, guided only by his sense of touch to recognise the stones he must shovel.*
- *The teenager transferring cash to hand for drugs in a subway.*
- *The homeless person, within reach of the change dropped in his box, knowing that his exploiter will take this too, depleting him still further from the street life of hand to mouth not of his choosing.*
- *For those for whom this night will lie, not at rest, but endure the unwanted touch of another, inside and out, with the knowledge that tomorrow will bring the same.*

6. A LAMENT USING OUR SENSES /continued

- *For those who toil and labour wearing inappropriate clothing for their tasks, hungry and sleep deprived through unrelenting activity.*

**We weep and wail and look to you, the Lord of hosts.
Lord, turn deep darkness into the morning.**

For those in the National Referral Mechanism and those outside

For those living on the edge of re exploitation

Heavenly Father we cry out to you to direct the ways that we can influence policy makers and those holding power in our land and across nations.

We pray for the hopefulness that comes from partnership – rescue, restoration, and the rebuilding of lives.

May we never grow weary until the day when all are free to smell the air of freedom, to taste the fruit of their own labours, to encircle their arms around those whom they choose and see and own a horizon of their making.

**Lord, as you turn darkness into morning, may your will be done on earth.
Amen**

7. IDEAS TO STRUCTURE CORPORATE PRAYER

TSP prayers

For an All-Age service, you may like to structure your prayers, using the TSP abbreviation - Thank you, Sorry, Please. Thank God for his character, his love, his empowering. Say sorry for the ways we have contributed to people being exploited and overlooked.

Say sorry for when we don't notice people or care about others.

Ask God to bless our efforts to care for victims, bring slavery to an end, inspire and mobilise Christians to action.

Concentric circles

You could pray in concentric circles – for example, pray for our response, our churches, our country, our world. You may want to focus on initiatives you know about in your church, our country and our world, on a particular country or form of modern slavery.

Categories

You could pray under categories – for victims, for churches and organisations working with victims, for our politicians, for our response.

The Clewer Initiative

Pray for the work of The Clewer Initiative – that God would use our efforts to mobilise many churches and communities and ultimately to identify and care for victims of modern slavery.

8. HOUSE GROUP SESSION

Modern slavery is a worldwide phenomenon and expanding. It is growing because of a number of features which feed each other:

- the rise in the number of vulnerable people, in the UK and across the globe
- an increasingly sophisticated criminal network offering false promises and trapping people in situations of brutal exploitation
- an indifference in many of us as to how our goods and services are provided, or by whom. We are concerned about cheap prices, not the welfare of producers.

Modern slavery is a form of exploitation which is often hidden. Without citizens and consumers noticing, suspecting or asking questions, it is very difficult for law-enforcement agencies and businesses to know where to look or how to respond.

The Clewer Initiative invites Christians and all people of goodwill to become proactive and more fully committed to going the extra mile and seeking to notice and respond – whether inviting proper investigation of suspicious behaviours or deals too cheap to be true, or supporting victims, raising awareness and building community resilience.

8. HOUSE GROUP SESSION /continued

For Anti-Slavery Day, you are invited to reflect further upon the good news of the Christian faith for disciples, for those in need, and for the ways in which we live worship and pray.

Getting started

Read Psalm 23

1. What does the Psalmist teach us about the realities of human suffering and sin?
2. What does God offer to his children facing such challenges?
3. What should be our response?

Read the County Lines Psalm

The gang leader is my shepherd, I shall not ask.

He makes me lie down in unheated flats;

He leads me beside needle-strewn stairwells;

He enslaves my soul.

He leads me down windswept streets

For his own profit.

As I walk down the darkest alley, I feel evil; For he is with me;

My phone and my stash, they cling to me.

He prepares every deal for me in the presence of my enemies;

My head it drips with sweat;

My water bottle is empty.

Surely ruthlessness and cruelty shall stalk me

All the days of my life,

And I shall live in an unfurnished home

My whole short life.

8. HOUSE GROUP SESSION /continued

1. What does the County Lines Psalm teach us about the realities of human suffering and sin – especially as manifested through modern slavery?
2. What kind of witness does God desire his church to make in the midst of these realities?
3. What should be our responses today? Make a list of what could be achieved by your group.

With thanks to the Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge; The Rev'd Edwina Fennemore, Canon Jane Brooke and Bishop Alastair Redfern for their help in putting together these resources.

These resources are also available [on our website](#).