



FREEDOM SUNDAY

GOD'S PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER
TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PRAYER RESOURCES

SYMBOLS.

WE ARE INVITING ALL CHURCHES TO JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYING THE FREEDOM PRAYER DURING THEIR SERVICE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ADD ONE OR MORE VISIBLE SYMBOLS EITHER DURING THE WHOLE WORSHIP OR JUST DURING THE FREEDOM PRAYER AS AN ACT OF COMMITMENT.

IDEAS:

1. Place a bowl of water at the front to represent the painful tears of those in various kinds of bondage especially Human Trafficking. As the prayer is being said, people - all or a representative group can drop flowers into this bowl as a sign of their commitment to bringing joy and happiness in these people's lives.
2. Place one or more symbol/s of Freedom at the front of the church during this Freedom Sunday service. Suggestions include bells, flowers or broken chains/fetters placed on a table.
3. Invite people to hold hands with their neighbours during the prayer to affirm your joint renewed commitment for the cause of Freedom. This will also express your solidarity with all those who are denied it and those who will promote freedom.
4. As the last line of the response is said each time, invite people to raise their right hand to make the sign of 'Stop' and then hold hands again.
5. Create a Freedom wall by having some flip charts, cardboard or a plain white cotton cloth available where either a representative group or the whole church can put their hands into different coloured paints and place the mark of their hand on the card, paper or fabric.

OTHER PRAYERS.

HERE FIND A SELECTION OF OTHER PRAYERS THAT YOU MAY WISH TO USE DURING YOUR FREEDOM SUNDAY SERVICE.

CALL AND RESPONSE PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray together that God's justice and righteousness will break forth in our time.

1. We pray for the Christian Communities around the world, for the strength, fortitude and vision of all their leaders and members in addressing the issues of human trafficking.
Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.
2. We pray for world leaders that they will confront human trafficking in all its forms, by dedicating their time, energy and resources to eradicating it.
Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.
3. We pray for those in bonded labour, in agricultural fields, mines and factories who have been reduced to tools for production and commodities rather than human beings.
Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.
4. We pray for women who are estimated to make up 80% of human trafficking victims and for changes in societal attitudes that deny the equality and dignity of women.
Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.

5. We pray for the development of impoverished nations so that their peoples may know a decent standard of living, have meaningful opportunities for education and employment and thus escape the desperate circumstances that make people vulnerable to human trafficking.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.

6. We pray that the demand for trafficked people will reduce. May men and women grow in appreciation of the dignity of every human person so that we can live in a world where no-one is enslaved.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.

7. We pray for who died recently and for all who have died as a result of their exploitation and slavery.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and righteousness break forth.

Prisider:

Awaken our hearts and deepen our commitment to work for a world where all people are free and able to live with dignity and freedom. We ask for conversion of heart for traffickers and for strong laws to protect victims. Give us wisdom and courage so that we will find ways to ensure Your freedom is the gift for all people. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for people who are trafficked;
May they find freedom from fear and harm
And courage to live in hope.

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Silence is kept)

Lord have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

We pray for people who traffick others;
May they find freedom from greed and violence
And courage to live with justice.

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Silence is kept)

Lord have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

We pray for people who work to prevent trafficking;
May they find freedom from threats and webs of untruths
And courage to live in peace

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Silence is kept)

Lord have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

God of compassion and mercy,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery to freedom in the promised land:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER PETITION

O GOD, WE ADORE YOU FOR CREATING HUMAN BEINGS IN YOUR DIVINE IMAGE AND FOR YOUR LOVE, SUPREMEY MANIFESTED IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WHICH EMPANCIPATES

US FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND PAVES THE WAY FOR THE CREATION OF GODLY COMMUNITY IN WHICH MEMBERS MAY LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND EXERCISE THEIR GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL FOR THE COLLECTIVE WELLBEING AND HAPPINESS.

WE ALSO THANK YOU FOR ENABLING US TO OBSERVE “FREEDOM SUNDAY” TO PRAY FOR YOUR STRENGTH, GRACE, AND RESOLVE TO INCESSANTLY FIGHT AGAINST THE DEMONIC EVIL OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AN ABHORRENT CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. HELP US TO HAVE INORDINATE COMPASSION FOR THOSE TRAFFICKED AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THEIR REDEMPTION AND REHABILITATION. HELP US TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF RESISTANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR TRAFFICKERS TO OPERATE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. FILL OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE SO THAT WRONGED, DISPLACED AND VICTIMIZED INDIVIDUALS WILL FIND ACCEPTANCE AND CARE.

HELP US TO FIGHT AGAINST ALL BONDAGES AND OPPRESSIONS, CAUSED BY THE EVIL ONE, SO THAT YOUR IMAGE BEARING CREATIONS WILL LIVE A LIFE OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY. IN THE MOST PRECIOUS NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

PRAYER POINTS

PRAY FOR THOSE MORE VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKING

- For women and children who make up the majority of those trafficked
- For the poor who are more likely to be deceived by promises of a different future
- For developing countries that their people may receive a living wage, have a meaningful education and employment opportunities

PRAY FOR THE WORLD LEADERS

- that they will confront trafficking by enforcing laws which prevent trafficking and ensure they are not importing goods into their country where human trafficking may have occurred in the supply chain
- Give thanks for the work of the first ladies of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire in cooperating to end trafficking of children to work in the cocoa fields

PRAY FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Faith workers can develop programs for the prevention of trafficking, and provide increased recovery and restoration services for survivors of trafficking
- For an increased networking and cooperation among faith groups working to alleviate the abuse and suffering human trafficking brings
- Give thanks for the collaboration between faith leaders especially Pope Francis, Archbishop Welby, Rabbi Dr Abraham Skorka and Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi al-Modarresi

PRAY FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

- That their hearts may be softened and they may come to see each person they encounter as being made in the image of God
- That they may repent and know freedom as did John Newton, slave trader and author of 'Amazing Grace'

PRAY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY TRAPPED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN FORMS OF SLAVERY

- That they will have their human dignity restored
- That programs for restoration will be available to them
- That they might be given hope and that they cannot be separated from you

PRAY FOR OURSELVES

- That when we are tempted to be first we will be reminded of Jesus call to serve
- That we will be diligent in taking action through the products we consume and the campaigning we engage in to be able to end human trafficking and modern forms of slavery in our lifetime.
- That we might have the confidence and courage to know that we can do it!