PRAYERS

O Lord our God,

as we remember, teach us the ways of peace.

As we treasure memories, teach us to hope.

As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past,

help us to make your future in this world,

until your kingdom come. *All*Amen.

Lord God of reconciliation;

in your love you reconcile the world to yourself

and welcome us into your kingdom;

you break the walls and barriers we erect

to divide ourselves, and make us

one human family in you.

Inspire us to live in this truth,

to honour your love. Amen

SAFEGUARDING PRAYERS – from the Church of England Safer Church Liturgy

Loving God,

we pray that this church may be a place of welcome,

security and compassion.

Keep us watchful yet caring,

trusting yet ready to question,

that all who worship here may do so

in safety and in the knowledge of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the doors of this church be wide enough

to receive all who come seeking God and fellowship.

May the doors of this church be narrow enough

to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May the threshold of this church be no stumbling block

to young or frail feet.

May the threshold of this church be too high

to admit complacency and self-seeking.

May this church be, for all who enter,

a safe place and the doorway to a richer life in Christ. Amen

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,

eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,

eternal power, be our support,

eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,

eternal pity, have mercy upon us;

that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength

we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy

to your holy presence,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF LAMENT – from the Church of England’s safer church liturgy

When wickedness triumphs

and people are betrayed,

come to your kingdom, strong and holy God,

destroy the masks of evil

and reign in our broken hearts;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Restless with grief and fear

the abandoned turn to you:

in every hour of trial,

good Lord, deliver us, Amen

Tender God,

gentle protector in time of trouble,

pierce the gloom of despair

and give us, with all your people,

the song of freedom and the shout of praise;

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;

give us the sorrow that heals

and the joy that praises

and restore by grace your own image within us,

that we may take our place among your people;

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In the darkness of unknowing,

when your love seems absent,

draw near to us, O God,

in Christ forsaken,

in Christ risen,

our Redeemer and our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS FOR SURVIVORS – from the Church of England’s Safer church Liturgy

Lord God,

hear our prayer for all in pain and vulnerability:

dispel their darkness and loneliness with your everlasting light,

so that they can recover their self-confidence

and through your grace and mercy find their true selves again,

healed and strengthened by your unconditional love

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God our strength and our redeemer:

you do not leave us in this life

nor abandon us in death.

Hear our prayer for those in despair,

when days are full of darkness

and the future empty of hope.

Renew in them your sustaining strength

for we believe that there is nothing in all creation

that can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

FOR USE BY SURVIVORS – from the Church of Englands safer church Liturgy

Jesus, our companion,

when we are driven to despair,

help us, through the friends and strangers

we encounter on our path,

to know you as our refuge,

our way, our truth and our life. Amen

God my creator, whose body was broken and pierced, have mercy upon me.

My body has become a foreign country,

my life has been broken open and spoiled,

my safety has been shattered and my strength overcome,

and I am filled with bitterness, rage, and grief.

Lift me up in the power of your Spirit.

Mend and cleanse my body with your presence.

Defend me, body and soul, by your power,

that I may fear no enemy,

that I may not be lost in my anger,

that in time I may feel whole again.

Help me to remember that even in his abandonment,

you lifted your Son from the grave into newness of life. Amen