

Prayer of Preparation

**Compassionate God, our refuge and strength,
defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed,
we come to you with humble and thankful hearts.**

**As your children, you call us to be like you,
to speak up for the rights of all who are vulnerable.**

**Help us as we strive to be a place of safety for all,
May we listen to those who are hurting, learn from Jesus' example,
and love one another as you first loved us.**

Amen

Prayers of Penitence

You made your church to be place of safety and refuge,
yet people have been hurt and harmed.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

You call your church be a voice for the voiceless and the oppressed,
yet we have remained silent and not spoken out about injustice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

You send your church to be an example of love to the world,
yet we have been selfish and not shown love to those who are hurting.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Act of Commitment

As the people of God, we are called to follow in the way of Christ, to walk humbly and love mercy, and to speak up about injustice so that the church may be a place of safety and refuge for all. In acknowledging the role we all have in making our churches safer places, let us join together and pledge our commitment before almighty God:

Will you treat everyone with respect and dignity and seek to never knowingly hurt or harm others by what you do, or say?

All With the help of God, I will

Will you actively support the work of safeguarding in this church?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you support the Safeguarding Lead and all those who have safeguarding responsibilities?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you use your voice to speak up about the injustice of abuse?

All With the help of God, I will.