

CONFESSION

Today we confess,
aware that we pray for ourselves,
and our church
and our society.

Jesus said,
"Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these."

No abuse of any sort,
Over any person,
Created in the image of God
Is ever acceptable.
Abuse is about the misuse of power.
Fear comes from an absence of love.

(All)
God of every person,
We confess to you,
Our neglect and forgetfulness
Of your commandments;
As a church and as individuals;
Through history, in our society;
In our leisure times and at home,
Our love has fallen short
And we have marred your image in us.

Jesus said,
"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
Because he has anointed me
To proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
Freedom for the prisoners
And recovery of sight for the blind,
To set the oppressed free,
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Merciful and loving God,
We confess our wrong doing,
Our wrong thinking
And our hurtful words.
We recognise that abuse
Wounds, imprisons and oppresses people.
We recognise that silence,
In the face of abuse,
is not an acceptable option.

**Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.
To speak out
Against the abuse of power;
Especially in our homes.**

**To speak up
For those who have been pushed down
In any way.**

**To speak to
The needs of those who are suffering
At the hands of another.**

**We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ,
Who extended his forgiving hands to all.
Amen.**

CREED

When God created human beings,
He made them in the likeness of God.
He created them male and female and blessed them.
And when they were created,
he called them "human beings."

God has shown this to us:

We believe this.

For God so loved the world
That he gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Shall not perish but have eternal life.

God has shown this to us:

We believe this.

So in Christ Jesus
You are all children of God through faith,
For all of you who were baptized into Christ
Have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is neither Jew nor Gentile,
Neither slave nor free,
Neither male nor female,
For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

God has shown this to us:

We believe this.

And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God.

God has shown this to us:

We believe this.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

A Commitment:

(All)

**We believe that everyone
should be valued.**

**We believe that no one
should be abused or exploited.**

**The Church, our church,
Is called to bring Good News
And to be Good news;
And to make a difference.**

**Help us to be a healing community.
To be a place and a people
Where all are helped in their pain and struggles.**

May God give you eyes
To recognise abuse where it exists.
May God give you a heart
To reach out in compassion.
May God give you courage and resolve
To make a difference wherever you are.

And if you have suffered abuse in the past
Or if you are in abusive relationship now
And you are still living with that pain
and its consequences,
May God bring healing into your mind and body.

And the Blessing of God Almighty,
The Holy Trinity,
Guide your steps today,
this week and always.

Go in peace and in resolve.

Amen. Let it be so.