



WE SEE YOU.

SUNDAY SERVICE GUIDE

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY:
RESOURCES FOR PRAYER, PREACHING AND REFLECTION**

Adapted from a resource produced by the Diocese of Derby



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

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WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

People are enslaved into prostitution, pornography, agricultural and building labour, manufacturing, domestic servitude, forced begging, benefit fraud and petty criminality, and organ removal. Modern slavery happens in all parts of the world, including in the UK.

DOES MODERN SLAVERY REALLY HAPPEN IN THE UK?

In 2016, 3805 men, women and children were rescued from modern slavery in the UK, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are estimated to be 11,700 victims of modern slavery in the UK.

Many people who end up being enslaved are looking for legitimate work. Traffickers prey on this desire and often deceive people into coming with them to another country with the promise of a good job. Only on arrival do victims discover the truth as they are forced into prostitution or harsh working conditions.

The victims of modern slavery in the UK come from all over the world. The two most common countries are Albania and Vietnam. Many victims are also British – in 2016 it was the third most common country of origin for victims.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS

A PRAYER FOR THE END OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

God of freedom, beauty and truth
we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy,
is that all creation might know abundant life.
We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers,
women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves;
They are your beloved daughters and sons,
exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed.
Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion
that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice;
that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion;
that all of us might live in such a way
that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience.
Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious Earth itself
will be treated, not as a commodity,
but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth.
Amen. May it be so.

The Catholic Health Association of the United States.

As shared by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.

A PRAYER FOR ACTION

Dear Lord, just as You helped Moses and Aaron as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us speak up for modern slaves around the world.

A PRAYER FOR PREVENTION

Dear Lord, most of us reading this prayer will never experience the kind of extreme poverty that millions of people live with every day. Help us to be understanding and compassionate toward their needs. Help us to love them in the way that You love them. Give us the will to make things better.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

Dear Lord, You are a strong tower and a mighty fortress. Help Your rescued children feel safe and begin to heal. Protect them from those who seek to harm them.

A PRAYER FOR RESTORATION

Dear Lord, Your Word shows that You bring new joy and hope where previously there was only shame and fear. We ask this for our brothers and sisters, who desperately need to accept that they can be made new.

A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

Dear Lord, You demand justice for those who have been wronged. Give strength to those who investigate and prosecute traffickers. Encourage them when they are weary. Give courage to survivors when they are asked to testify against their former captors.

World Vision

A PRAYER FOR USE WITH CHILDREN

Dear God,

You get people out of their locked places. You smile at them when they are lonely. You let them laugh again.

You give love without wanting anything back. You love us more than your life.

Help us to be like you, please, Amen.

Chaste

COLLECTS ON THE TOPIC OF MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Loving Father,
Who gathers the outcast, heals the broken
hearted and binds up their wounds;
Bring liberty and freedom to all whose lives are
entangled in slavery and trafficking
in our world today.
Lift up the downtrodden and tread
wickedness into the dust:
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit in perfect freedom,
One God, now and forever. Amen

Based on Psalm 147

God of our pilgrimage,
Who led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt
to freedom in the Promised Land,
Go with the enslaved and trafficked today;
Be their protecting presence,
Provide what they need for each day,
Take away their sorrow and wipe away
every tear from their eyes,
Thunder love and justice from the mountains
And lead them, we pray, to opportunities
to cross over into places of peace and plenty
Which they can call home.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Derby Diocese Worship Advisory Group

God of our salvation,
who created all things out of love
for your children,
Help us, who love you,
to defend the rights of the orphan, the widow,
and the oppressed of every generation;
Hear the cries of our hearts for those
enslaved in our world today.
And in your compassion, bring comfort and
healing, restore liberty and dignity
and lead each of your children from bondage
to sin, to the glory of your Kingdom.
We make your prayer through Christ, our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now
and forever. Amen

Based on Isaiah 1:17

INTERCESSIONS FOR MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

READER

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

READER

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

READER

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

READER

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.

Derby Diocese Worship Advisory Group

PREACHING ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN SLAVERY

BIBLE TEXTS TO USE

- Genesis 1: 26 - 31
 - The creation of human beings and dignity of all people;
 - Written by slaves in exile in Babylon
- Exodus 3: 1 - 12
 - God calls Moses to set Israel free from slavery
- Luke 4: 16 - 21
 - Freedom for slaves is a promise of God's kingdom
- 2 Corinthians 3: 17 - 18
 - The Spirit of the Lord is present in freedom
- Galatians 5: 1, 13 - 15
 - God's people are called into freedom
- Philemon
 - Paul's letter asking Philemon to free Onesimus from slavery
- Revelation 18: 10b - 20
 - Babylon is judged for dealing in slaves

SOME THINGS TO INCLUDE

- Your own voice – why is this important for you?
- The voices of slaves and those trafficked – use stories told by those who have escaped
- The variety of ways people are trafficked today: many of them are hidden, this concerns more than the sex-trade
- The voice of the Bible – the foundation of our faith is in the escape from slavery
- A practical end – what can your hearers do?

SOME THINGS TO AVOID

- Traumatizing the congregation – be careful with powerful stories!
- What might this raise for your hearers? – some may have suffered abuse or domestic violence or have been trafficked or be living in a situation of slavery at the moment
- De-humanizing the victims/survivors/perpetrators – tell other people's stories with care and don't treat them as an arguing point

NOTES TOWARDS A SERMON



When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

SHAPING A SERMON

- Jesus' sermon in the Synagogue at Nazareth is a programme for his mission.
- He says that proclaiming release to the captives and freedom for the oppressed is a sign of the coming of God's kingdom
- Jesus is drawing on the Prophet Isaiah, and through Isaiah on God leading the people of Israel out of slavery into freedom in the Promised Land
- We often think slavery was abolished in the 18th Century after the work of William Wilberforce and other people of faith

- Slavery continues in our world today in a variety of hidden ways: people are enslaved for forced labour, for the sex trade, for domestic servitude, and forced begging
- In the UK it is estimated that there are 11,700 people enslaved each year in this way
- Worldwide, the estimate is over 45 million people kept as slaves
- We need to hear again Jesus' call to bring freedom and end captivity
- We, like our ancestors, can be part of bringing an end to slavery
- We can pray for those trapped in slavery, for those exploiting them, and for the authorities who deal with these issues
- We can support charities working with those who have been trafficked or enslaved
- We can talk about the issue with our friends and family
- We can learn about the way slavery is included in the supply chains for our food and clothing
- We can look out for the signs of those who are trapped in forced labour and report it to the Police
- In all of this we can try to live out the message of Jesus that freedom is a sign of God's kingdom
- This is part of what we mean when we pray the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy Kingdom come'

A STORY

“ I was brought up by travellers although I don't know who my parents were. They were kind to me and looked after me. When I grew up I couldn't get any work. People don't like travellers and they don't like people who are different, like me.

I couldn't read or write so I tried to get labouring jobs.

One day a group of men turned up and said they wanted some strong people for casual labour, bricking and that. They seemed to like me. The boss said he'd take me on so I was really glad. But what we basically did was go to another town in the boss's truck and then go from house to house offering to do things like lay driveways for cheap prices cash in hand.

Thing is, the boss would set us to work and tell us we had to get the job done by a certain time. We weren't to speak to anyone or talk about the job – that's why I was useful. We had to work until dark and sleep in a garage. The boss took all the cash and gave us nothing except some food and cigarettes.

When I tried to ask a householder for food and drink I got beaten by the boss, he slapped me and yelled at me. I work all day to lay the bricks really fast, but I get nothing. And now I am a long way from my home and I have nowhere else to go.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/1944457/human%20trafficking%20and%20modern-day%20slavery%20-%20theology.pdf>

WHERE TO FIND HELP

If someone is in immediate danger, then call the police on 999. If you have concerns or suspicions about a situation then call your local police on 101, or go to your local police station. You can also call the Modern Slavery Helpline for 24/7 specialist advice and support.

WHO TO CONTACT

If someone is in immediate danger then call the police.

999

Ask for advice by calling:

The Modern Slavery Helpline **08000 121 700**

Report non-emergency suspicious activity to your local police on:

101

The Salvation Army **0300 303 8151**

NSPCC CTAC (in cases of children) **0808 800 5000**

ONLINE RESOURCES

SERMON RESOURCES

- The Salvation Army have sermon outlines on the theme of trafficking
<http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/antitrafficking>
- CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education) produce resources for Christian Leaders, including Biblical reflections
<http://www.care.org.uk/church-leaders/human-trafficking-resources>

- USPG have a Bible Study on modern slavery amongst refugees
<http://www.uspg.org.uk/resources/migrationstudy4/>
- IJM (International Justice Mission) has sermon resources
<http://www.ijmuk.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Justice%20Sermon%20Series.pdf>

GENERAL RESOURCES

- Further WESEYOU resources provide by The Clewer Initiative
<http://www.theclewerinitiative.org/resources>
- IJM (International Justice Mission)
<http://www.ijmuk.org>
- Freedom Sunday is an annual day for prayer and action on behalf of those enslaved today
<http://www.freedomsundayglobal.org>
- The Salvation Army have extensive experience in supporting those who have been trafficked
<http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking>
- CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education)
<http://ww.care.org.uk/our-causes/human-exploitation/human-trafficking>