

A prayer for the people

God of truth and trust,
in you we find a safe place, to name our wounds,
in you we find a gentle place, where we can hope for healing,
in you we find a place of strength, when our courage runs thin,
in you we find an honest place, to tell of what was and what is.

So we pray that our Church would be a place of truth and trust,
of safety to remember,
of gentleness to tend,
of courage to confront,
and of honesty to respect what is spoken.

Where there has been pain, may its naming bring relief,
where there has been guilt, may we not fear the light,
where the past has been rotten, may we have the courage to say so,
and if the future can be different, may we find wisdom to shape it.

For the sake of Jesus Christ,
who suffered among us,
who shares our sorrows,
who seeks the truth with us and in us and for us,
and who stirs us to change.

Amen.



A suggestion for worship

This is a suggested act of worship, offered to churches to help pastoral care during the Past Case Review. It is an outline only, flexible to be adapted radically or minimally as needed for a local community. Specific resources for each section may be found on [www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review – worship](http://www.urc.org.uk/past-case-review-worship).

Quiet opening

potentially with a Taizé Chant

Call to Worship

'We begin our time of worship in the name of God; warmth and light for us; fountain whence we can draw strength; refuge who enfolds us and heals our soul.'

Hymn or song

about the faithfulness and/or mercy of God
Suggestions online

Statement

'Jesus meets us at our point of need and we find ourselves valued. We are offered a safe space.'

Reflection

Short quiet reflection

Reading

affirming the human need to be heard, seen, loved and valued

Silence

Story or poem

Silence

Prayer

of quiet confession

Silence

Statement of forgiveness

'On all who have sinned and are truly sorry, our God of love, justice, and peace pronounces peace and gives grace for new beginnings.'

Hymn or song

of grace
Suggestions online

Prayers

of intercession Including prayers for:

- People with concerns and hurts
- People who have been abused
- People who have caused hurt, and their loved ones
- People who are alleged to have caused hurt and their loved ones
- People who are listeners within the Past Case Review
- People who meet in allegations panels
- People who make specialist assessments
- People who give pastoral care
- People who will research and reflect
- People working in the Past Case Review team
- This local congregation and community
- The whole church
- The future for all of us as we share with Christ to bring relationships into safety

Concluding

with St. Columba's prayer

said together

Be thou a bright flame before me
Be thou a guiding star above me
Be thou a smooth path below me
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me
Today, tonight and forever.

(inside the cover of *Rejoice and Sing*)

Communion

Hymn or song

of hope
Suggestions online

Commitment

said together

Along with Jesus Christ our redeemer and following his example, 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, to make a difference. We pledge to be a healing community, to be a place and a people where all are helped in their pain and struggles. We seek eyes to recognise abuse where it exists, We seek a heart to reach out in compassion, We seek courage and resolve to do what is right.

Based on words from Liturgy for Victim of Abuse by the Revd Graeme Skinner of St Mary's Upton

A Blessing

said together

If we have suffered abuse in the past or are in an abusive relationship now; If we are still living with that pain or its consequences; May God bring healing into our minds and into our bodies. If we are sisters and brothers in Christ to any who have suffered or who are suffering; may God bring us the blessing of grace, love and fellowship in Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

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