Prayer for Victims of Crime or Oppression

*The following prayers may be used for those who have experienced crime, oppression, acts of intolerance or racism, social or political oppression, injustice, acts of hatred, physical harm, mental torment, bullying or exclusion. Additional Prayers may be adapted for specific circumstances.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

 Our help is in the name of the Lord:

 **who made heaven and earth**

**Words of Introduction**

God has always revealed his love and compassion in a particular way for those who have suffered at the hands of others. He has shown special concern for those who have experienced violence and suffering, hatred and oppression, injustice and intolerance. Gathered in Jesus name, who was wounded for our sake, we commend *N* to the love of God who binds up our wounds, mends our broken hearts and restores us to health and wholeness.

**Readings from Holy Scripture**

*One of the following or some other appropriate reading from Scripture:*

Matthew 10:28 -33 'Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body...'

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18 The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice

Lamentations 3:1-24 I am the one who knows affliction

Lamentations 3:49-59 When I called you, you came to my aid

Micah 4:1-4 Every person shall sit undisturbed

Matthew 5: 1- 10 The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:43 – 48 Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you

Luke 10: 25 – 37 The Good Samaritan

*One of the following or some other appropriate psalm may be read:*

Psalm 140

Psalm 31

Psalm 142

Psalm 23

**Intercessions**

Let us pray to the Lord our God who is tender and compassionate, soothes our pains and comforts our broken hearts.

For N. that he/she may be freed from anxiety and distress, from pain and suffering, and experience the love and compassion of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

***R.*** **Deliver us from evil, O Lord**

For all victims of crime and oppression that they may know the love and healing of the Lord and the support of their neighbours and friends, let us pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For an end to all acts of violence and hatred, intolerance and injustice and a beginning of love and acceptance, reconciliation and peace, let us pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For our community and all who live or work or worship in this place, that we may grow together in love and respect of one another and create a community of peace, let us pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For those who harms others, for those filled with evil intentions or violent ways, that they may turn away from wickedness and embrace the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. ***R.***

Let us pray to the Father, who is full of compassion and love, as Christ has taught us:

**Our Father...**

**Prayer**

Lord God,

your own Son experienced betrayal and injustice,

suffering and pain,

yet he prayed for those who persecuted him,

his heart was filled with forgiveness for those who caused him hurt and harm.

Relieve the sufferings of N;

give *him/her* peace of mind,

confidence in your care,

faith in your love,

the assurance of your protection.

Deliver us all from the violence of others,

keep us safe from the weapons of hatred,

and give us peace in our time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Blessing and Dismissal***

The blessing of Almighty God,

the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**