

Sample Prayers: Episcopalian

The scripture passages and sample prayers found here were graciously provided by the Human Trafficking Prayer Team at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston.

Monday, January 11: *Pray for an end to human trafficking.*

Helpful Context:

- Human trafficking occurs when force, fraud, or coercion is used to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex from another person. Causing a child to engage in the commercial sex trade is human trafficking regardless of whether the exploiter uses force, fraud, or coercion.
- Human trafficking can occur in a variety of legitimate and illegitimate industries, such as labor trafficking in agriculture, domestic work, beauty services, and restaurants or sex trafficking in escort services, pornography, cantinas, and illicit massage businesses.
- This roughly [3-minute animation](#) from Texas Christian University that accurately, succinctly, and artfully describes the realities of child sexual exploitation and how we can help survivors heal.
- [Be the One](#) is a powerful training documentary from the Office of the Attorney General that features actual cases prosecuted in Texas to educate viewers.
- January 11 is also National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition of this day, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign promotes [#WearBlueDay](#) and encourages the public to wear blue and raise awareness of human trafficking.

Scriptures:

- Zechariah 7:10
"And do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another".
- Ephesians 6:10-11
"My brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
- Proverbs 4:26-27
"Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
"This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor."

Sample Prayers:

- Good and gracious God, you have made humankind in your image, yet we fail to see that likeness in one another and inflict pain and suffering upon others in this human family. Help us to remember that how we treat others is how we treat you. Forgive us for our failure to love and care for one another. Use us to bring about your Kingdom here on earth. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

- Heavenly Father – we bring before you a scourge that is so awful and unspeakable, we hardly know where to even begin to try to diminish it. Yet, this problem is not too big for you! We ask you to give us discernment, compassion, love, and stamina to know how to address the immense problem of human trafficking in our neighborhoods, cities, state, country, and world. We pray for an end to the demand, as well as to the supply, of this immense problem. We pray for those who are being exploited - we pray for their protection, rescue and recovery. We pray for those who are seeking to put an end to human trafficking – we pray for their protection and perseverance. We pray for those who are helping survivors recover – we pray for their compassion, expertise, and strength. Place your protection around vulnerable children and others who may be drawn into this web. We know this is the work of Satan, and we know you are all powerful. Please help us all to work together in your love and guidance to end all forms of human trafficking and exploitation. In the name of your Son, whom we love and serve, we pray....Amen.

Tuesday, January 12: *Pray for prevention efforts and those who are vulnerable.*

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers are master manipulators and prey upon vulnerabilities. Examples of risk factors for human trafficking include: homelessness; economic insecurity; runaway youth; prior histories of abuse; forced displacement; and irregular migration.
- Research suggests that a healthy, trust-based relationships can prevent youth from entering a cycle of exploitation and that those same relationships are pivotal in helping exploited youth to successfully exit their exploitation. Research has also found the presence of a caring adult to be related to numerous positive outcomes in the lives of vulnerable teens and young adults.
- In Texas, schools are required to provide access to age-appropriate, research-based education to help protect children from sexual abuse and trafficking. Many organizations are doing great work to provide students, teachers, and caregivers with access to quality prevention education. Others are focused on addressing root causes of exploitation such as poverty, homelessness, and childhood trauma. These efforts are essential for moving upstream and stopping trafficking before it occurs.

Scriptures:

- Psalm 146:9
“The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked”.
- Psalm 119:9-11
“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
- Proverbs 2:10-11
When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil.”

- Matthew 26:41
“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Sample Prayers:

- For Young Persons: (Book of Common Prayer)
God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Psalm 9:12 “God does not ignore the cries of those who suffer.”
Heavenly Father, we know you have a special place in your heart for those who are vulnerable and suffering. You have promised to listen to, comfort, defend, and protect the helpless and suffering, and for this we give praise and are truly grateful. We pray you will deliver these vulnerable ones in your strength, power and love. In your Son’s name Amen.

Wednesday, January 13: *Pray for all those working on the front line to support survivors.*

Helpful Context:

- Advocates and service providers work tirelessly to provide shelter, crisis intervention, and ongoing case management to victims. While many do not understand the trauma endured by survivors or fail to recognize their dignity, these programs provide the supportive trust-based relationships and services that help survivors heal and thrive. Considering the complex needs of survivors and the intensive nature of these causes, those working on the front line may experience vicarious trauma and burnout.
- When asked what made the biggest difference in exiting their exploitation, many survivors name an individual rather than a program or service. Advocates on the front line often have the opportunity to build bonds of trust and begin the journey of healing from years of relational trauma.
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy is a critical component of the Texas approach to addressing child sex trafficking. Review [this flyer](#) more information on CSEY (pronounced “see-say”) Advocates.
- For information about services available to survivors, visit the [National Human Trafficking Hotline Referral Directory](#).

Scriptures:

- Matthew 25:40
“The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- James 1.27
“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”.
- Isaiah 61:1
“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

Sample Prayers:

- Lord Jesus, Please help all the people who are trying to save the victims of sex trafficking. These victims need you, Jesus, and we want them to know you are ready to accept them and love them. You died on the cross to save us from our sins and promise eternity to those who believe. (John 3:16 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.) Amen
- May we be guided by your wisdom in helping victims to escape from their tormentors so that they may have hope for their future. (Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.) Amen
- Lord you are a God of love and we know love conquers all and glorifies you. You are our protector and we are asking you to please protect and guide the front line advocates and agency providers. Please provide them with the wisdom and patience when working with the survivors. The human trafficking agencies and advocates work hard to help those who need rescuing. Please guide them and give them the knowledge and discernment to help those who need their help. We pray Lord you will work through the front line workers as they are helping and comforting the survivors. Place a hedge of protection around them. We pray the survivors will trust the advocates and know they are loved and not alone. Lord you did not give us the spirit of fear. We pray for the fearlessness of the providers and survivors. Lord hear our prayers and protect us, give us the strength and endurance for the long road ahead of us. Amen
- For Doctors and Nurses (and other healthcare providers): (BCP)
Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday, January 14: *Pray for survivors to find healing.*

Helpful Context:

- Victims of trafficking are often hiding in plain sight – held prisoner by fear, shame, and the trauma bonds that their traffickers create to manipulate and control them. Victimization may go

unnoticed for years, and many victims do not even realize they are victims; they believe what their exploiters tell them – that they are willing participants in the abuse.

- Trafficking survivors often experience complex trauma and a loss of self-identity as well as serious financial and healthcare issues. These difficulties create barriers to securing safe and stable housing as well as educational and career advances. Complex trauma takes a lifetime of healing.
- It is also critical that our strategies to address human trafficking are informed by survivors. Their perspective is irreplaceable, and their resilience is an inspiration.

Scriptures:

- Isaiah 41:10
“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
- Hebrews 7:25
Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.
- Psalm 40:1-3
“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him”.
- Philippians 1:6
“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”.
- Psalm 51:12
“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”
- Ezekiel 36:26
“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”
- Psalm 27:14
“Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!”
- Matthew 6:33
“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- 1 Peter 5:6-7
“Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
- Hebrews 13:5-6
“He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

- Psalm 138:8
“The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.”
- Isaiah 40:31
“Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”
- Psalm 34:17 NIV
“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”
- Matthew 12:28-30
“Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

Sample Prayers:

- Lord, May we realize that in their circumstances, they may not want to accept Christ's love and some may feel guilty that their sin is too much. (Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.) Amen
- Dear Jesus allow the survivors your light of healing to shine into their deepest recesses of their being, refreshing them to have the knowledge God is the great healer. Jesus we know your healing power is for all Christians, whether today we are suffering from a broken heart, a broken mind, a broken body, or a broken relationship. We must not let our circumstances overwhelm us and we must trust you God to help us cope with whatever the moment brings. Thank you God for the restoration that you have begun in us. We know you are everywhere at every time, ceaselessly working on our behalf. Amen
- Dear Heavenly Father, Help me to find the right godly path for my life. Guide me with strength, Your wisdom and protection to overcome my adversities and these wicked people. In Thy name I pray, Amen
- 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 prayer for your precious children that have been victims of human trafficking. We cry out to you to heal their physical and emotional wounds, and open their hearts and minds to trust those that want to provide healing, safety and stability to their lives. Grant that they may feel your peace and grace pour out over them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- Almighty God, we pray to you for the survivors of human trafficking. Thank you for providing the means for them to be freed from their captivity. Place in their lives safe people who can lead them to healing and wholeness. Replace trauma and sorrow with joy and a renewed spirit. Strengthen the hearts of survivors and encourage each of them to be a light of hope to other survivors in their journey to recovery. Amen

Friday, January 15: *Pray for all those working to bring traffickers and exploiters to justice.*

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from exploitation must be held accountable. Law enforcement and the justice system play a critical role in disrupting trafficking operations. These cases are often complicated to investigate and prosecute, and research indicates that misidentification of victims is a common problem across the country. Dedicated resources, training, and community support are important factors in law enforcement's ability to stop exploiters.
- Traffickers often use their victims to shield themselves from liability. Efforts to seek justice should include strategies to prevent victims from being punished for the actions of their traffickers. Survivors with criminal records stemming from their victimization have legal access to cleaning up those records and pursuing a fresh start.

Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 10:18
"He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing".
- Proverbs 31:8-9
"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- Psalm 143:8
"Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You."
- James 1:3-4
"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion."
- Matthew 7:8
"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Sample Prayers:

- God of justice and mercy, stir us through your Spirit to be your instruments of healing and peace. Bless those who heed your call for justice and mercy for the enslaved and vulnerable. Keep them safe from those who enrich themselves through the selling of human lives. And grant them your peace as they directly confront evil in our midst. We ask this in the name of your Son, our savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.
- Dear Lord, We pray to protect the workers who are fighting to bring traffickers and exploiters to justice. Let us keep them close in our hearts and always be reminded that all good works are done in your name. We ask you Lord, to lift up your humble servants, give us strength to fight for the victims even in the face of trials and let us not forget we should "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Be with us this day and always, Amen.

Saturday, January 16: *Pray for an end to demand and societal factors that lead to exploitation.*

Helpful Context:

- Sex trafficking would simply not be profitable without demand. Sex buyers drive the market for the illegal sex trade. From May 2019 – June 2020, CEASE Texas identified over 1 million unique online advertisements for commercial sex across 6 Texas cities. We should consider the roles of technology, pornography, sexually oriented businesses, and a hypersexualized culture in facilitating an environment that normalizes exploitation and facilitates demand.
- Labor trafficking is also impacted by demand. The demand for cheap goods and cheap labor can result in worker exploitation and slavery in supply chains. In 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor identified 155 goods from 77 countries produced by child or forced labor.

Scriptures:

- Romans 8:15
“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”
- Galatians 5:1
“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12
“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
- Romans 12:2
“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- Hebrews 2:18
In that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Sample Prayers:

- Oh, gracious and merciful Father,
We humbly acknowledge that you are the creator and still master of all that is and all that ever was or will be.
We also acknowledge that we are broken, each of us, though often in very different ways. We know that you know this, and that you weep when we, your children, push away from you and allow our brokenness to bring pain to others.
We confess our sinfulness in this, and ask for your forgiveness in the name of Jesus.
Lord, we know that we have either succumbed to or for too long ignored the deception of the enemy and allowed the dark forces of lust and greed to draw us and others into pornography and both the virtual and physical exploitation of helpless, enslaved children. Yes, children, Lord; we confess it and we cry out now for them.
We call on you in the name of Jesus, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, to help each of us to discern these deceptions that are so numerous, rampant and persuasive; to confront them fearlessly for ourselves and with our family and friends; and to have the power to refuse to submit ever again to the yoke of slavery, which is all that pornography and these dark forces

offer.

In the precious name of Jesus, our savior and advocate, we pray,
Amen

- For the Victims of Addiction: (BCP)
Blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.

Sunday, January 17: *Pray for discernment on the actions you can personally take to address human trafficking.*

Helpful Context:

- Every Texan has an opportunity to join the fight against human trafficking, whether by educating friends, mentoring vulnerable youth, being a conscious consumer, financially supporting trusted organizations, or reporting suspicious activity.
- What can you do about human trafficking? [Be the O.N.E. – Observe. Notify. Empower.](#)
- Explore [10 ways you can help end trafficking](#) and learn more about how [faith-based and community organizations](#) can be involved.

Scriptures:

- Isaiah 1:17
“Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphans, plead for the widow”.
- Psalm 82:3
“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed”.
- Hebrews 13:3
“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering”.
- Micah 6:8
“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Matthew 12:3
“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things.”
- Joshua 24:15
“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Sample Prayers:

- Dear Heavenly Father,
I confess that I am ignorant about sex trafficking in Texas, that I have not felt compassion for the victims as I should, or that I simply turn a blind eye to trafficking establishments and businesses. Thank you for raising up the brave men and women who have taken a lead in bringing

awareness of sex trafficking in Texas and in Houston and I ask you for their protection and perseverance.

Lord, please give me your courage and wisdom to step up and be your hands and feet in this fight.

Lord, I want to help. Show me the way.

Amen

- Holy Father,

I come to you with an open heart and open spirit. Guide my words, my actions and my influence as I strive to raise God-loving children. Help me to educate my family about human trafficking in a way that they can understand. Protect my children from friends and influences that would confuse the truth. Help me build trust with my children so that we can speak openly about human trafficking issues. Let my children be a force for good, through teaching them to love unconditionally. In your name we pray, Amen