

Closing prayer

God of all peoples, awaken our hearts and deepen our commitment to work for a world where every person is free and able to live their lives fully and joyfully. We ask for conversion of heart for traffickers and for strong laws that protect victims. Help us to grow in our awareness that we are all connected. Give us wisdom, inspiration, and courage to stand in solidarity, so that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all your people. Amen³



Suggestions for opening song/hymn

(27 Million by Matt Redman can be downloaded via iTunes or with pictures and lyrics from YouTube. It's a lively Anti-Trafficking song)

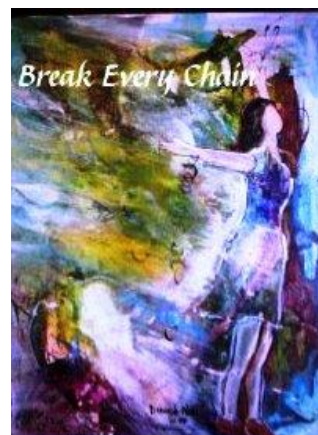
The Silence and the Sorrow
Lay your hands gently upon us
Abide with me
The Lord hears the cry of the poor
On Eagles Wings

¹ Adapted from Sister G. Cassani, SSN.

² taken from www.human_trafficking_prayer_guide

³ taken from *Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center*

European Anti-Human Trafficking Day 18th October, 2014



Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people, far and wide in the land! I am broken by the ruin of the daughter of my people. I am disconsolate; horror has seized me. Is there no balm in Gilead, no physician there? Why grows not new flesh over the wound of the daughter of my people? Oh, that my head were a spring of water, my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night over the slain of the daughter of my people!
(Jeremiah 8:18-23)

Rise, O God and come to our aid; hear our prayers for the enslaved members of our global human family, our sisters and brothers

Song: 27 Million (Matt Redman)

(or hymn/song of choice – please see back page for suggestions)

Psalms 10:12-18 & 72: 12-14

Ant: Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.

Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.
Why does the wicked man revile God?
Why does he say to himself,
“He won’t call me to account”?

But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;
you consider their grief and take it in hand.
The victims commit themselves to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.
Break the arm of the wicked man;
call the evildoer to account for his wickedness
that would not otherwise be found out.

You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,
defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that mere earthly mortals
will never again strike terror.



For He will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save them from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

Ant: Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.

Reading/Reflection:

“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.” Proverbs 31:8-9

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. Is. 58: 9-10

Intercessions

Response: *Hear the prayer of your people*

We cry out against the degrading practice of human trafficking and pray for it to end. Strengthen the fragile spirited and broken-hearted. Make real your promises to fill these women and children with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty handed. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. ¹ *Merciful God, we turn to you...*

We pray for the “Johns” that are hurting others and hurting themselves. Pray that God would change their hearts, pierce their consciences, and bring about deep repentance. Pray that the darkness of their hearts and their actions might be brought into the light, that their shameful deeds done in secret might be exposed so that more victims are not harmed. ² *Merciful God, we turn to you...*

We pray for our political leaders, that they may be strengthened in their resolve to confront the crime human trafficking and sexual exploitation in our country. Inspire in them the political will to see enact efficient laws that will protect victims of modern day slavery, and prosecute pimps, traffickers and purchasers of commercial sex. *Merciful God, we turn to you...*

We pray for an end to demand for commercial sex, for without demand, there would be no supply. May God touch the hearts of the traffickers, pimps and clients, and set free all those trapped in brothels, strip clubs, massage parlours and other means of enslavement. *Merciful God, we turn to you...*