

## Written prayers

### Prayers for people who are homeless

#### Opening intercessions for people who are homeless

- Leader: God of all refuge,  
**All: Protect all those who are on our streets.**
- Leader: God of all shelter,  
**All: Provide for all who are homeless in our city.**
- Leader: God of all rest,  
**All: Give sleep to all who are cold or who are keeping one eye open in fear of trouble.**
- Leader: God of all peace,  
**All: Calm troubled minds, and protect those who feel hunted.**
- Leader: God of all comfort,  
**All: Strengthen weak knees, and heal broken hearts.**
- Leader: God of all power,  
**All: Transform lives so that they may be free in your freedom.**
- Leader: We ask these things in the name of your son Jesus Christ.  
**All: Amen.**

#### Prayers for those who are frightened of losing their homes

Father God, we lift before you all who are living in fear of losing their homes because of redundancy, debt or broken relationships.

We know that you are our real shelter.

Help people to know the safety and peace of dwelling in you, even amidst desperate circumstances.

But Lord, because of your great mercy, we ask that you would keep these people physically safe.

We long for you to move circumstances that they might keep their homes, but if this does not happen, we ask that you would protect them, find them, and bring them safe to a new home.

**Amen.**

**Prayers for those working with the homeless** (referencing Isaiah 58:7-8, *The Message*)

Lord we lift to you all those working with people who are homeless.

Outreach workers and volunteers; organisations; health professionals; police; and local councils.

Lord we thank you for the compassion and generosity of individuals, churches and organisations – keep giving them your wisdom, and breathe your life-giving compassion and power through their services.

We thank you too for our nation's financial and service provision.

Protect it from funding cuts, and give government at all levels wisdom and compassion to know the best ways and resources to help those in need.

May we never tell ourselves the excuse that the homeless are already taken care of, covered by someone else's call or responsibility.

Teach us instead the true worship you require.

We are sorry for the times we have not taken your Word seriously.

Help us not to reduce your call to share our food with the hungry, and take the homeless poor into our homes, into something that can only be met by centres, projects or specialised teams.

We praise you for their life-giving work, but ask that you would not let us not use their efforts and expertise as our escape from what you ask of us personally.

Help us to remember that whilst you work through programmes and professionals, no one can meet needs like you can.

We are all called to follow you as you love the poor and the broken.

So lead us to partner with you in whatever you call us to – to love, serve, give and pray wholeheartedly and willingly.

In your precious name, Jesus.

**Amen.**