

Written prayers

Prayers for the UK during the financial crisis and recession

Prayer of confession on behalf of the nation

All: Merciful and generous Father, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts,
Our affections have prized other gods alongside your glory.
We have worshipped success, security, self-reliance and excess.
We have borrowed beyond our means to meet our selfish desires,
And held back what we could have given to benefit ourselves.
We have blamed bankers, and politicians for the shifting sand which we were willing to build on ourselves,
And focussed more on our own loss of luxury than on the desperate needs of the destitute.
We are truly sorry.
We want to turn away from greed and materialism.
Make us a people set apart – who are willing to live differently, and sacrificially, for your sake.
And make us a people of mercy and action – who are willing to reach out to all who face redundancy, repossession or debt.
Amen.

Prayer of absolution

Leader: Merciful and generous Father, we thank you for your grace
Given freely to us, and at ultimate cost to you – through your Son.
We receive your forgiveness, and your transforming strength to live differently.
Lead us to our true rock and foundation,
And move us to build what will last upon that perfect cornerstone – for your sake and your glory.

All: Amen.

Prayers of intercession

For the UK to recover:

Leader: Have mercy on our nation Lord
Not for the sake of the powerful – banks, financial institutions, companies and government,
But for the sake of the powerless – those who face redundancy, repossession or crippling debt.

All: **Father of all – provide, restore and rebuild.**

Leader: We ask that you would lead our nation to financial recovery, Lord,
Not for the sake of the comfortable – so they may regain security and advantage,
But for the sake of the uncomfortable – who struggle to pay essential bills and fear tomorrow’s
demands and summons.

All: **Father of all – provide, restore and rebuild.**

Leader: We ask that you would reduce our nation’s deficit, and rebuild its prosperity,
Not so it can continue to take risks,
But so it can build new systems, and honour its commitments – especially to those who so
desperately need its welfare systems or international grants.

All: **Father of all – provide, restore and rebuild.**

Leader: We ask that you would end this time of our shaking in our nation.
But we do not want to return to business as usual – we want to return to you;
To establish fair systems, and sound practices built on your laws – and your commitment to deliver
the poor and oppressed.

All: **Father of all – we surrender to your perfect timing – have your way in our lives, our finances, and
our nation, so that we can emerge from this time of shaking with a new resolve to act justly and
equitably.**

Amen.

For those facing or experiencing redundancy:

Leader: Father God, thank you that you know every person experiencing, or fearing redundancy at the
present time.

Where there is anxiety – give your peace

Where there is fear – provide your encouragement

Where there is a sense of rejection – speak your identity

Where there is need – bring your provision

Where there is shame – speak your hope, and the future you have planned.

We pray for new opportunities, fresh starts and fruitful openings.

And we ask for your protection of marriages, families, and homes.

We ask all these things in the name of your precious Son.

All: **Amen.**

For those in debt:

Leader: We pray for all those imprisoned by debt — Lord, set them free.

Show them a way out, and let them never believe the lie that their circumstances are so desperate
that there is no hope.

We ask for special mercy and breakthrough for all who are in debt due to robbery, sickness, or
injustice.

We ask that you would give anyone in debt the courage to overcome any fear of what others might
think so that they can talk to others and find the people and services that will help them.

All: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all those working to relieve the suffering and circumstances of people living in debt – for Credit Action, Christians Against Poverty, the Samaritans and all local churches who offer counselling, advice, and debt management or cancellation services.

Give them wisdom, compassion, and resources to continue this vital work.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for banks, building societies, creditors, bailiffs and collection services.
Lead them to be wise, lenient and merciful – concerned with right-doing, and the implications of their actions on families, as well as the bottom line.

We pray for our society – companies and consumers – lead us back to right and fair practices and deliver us from our addiction to wanting more than we need, and wanting it now.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen.

For those facing repossession:

Leader: Precious Lord Jesus, you knew what it was like to have no home,
Your parents knew what it was like to fear for their child's safety and provision.

We lift to you all those facing possible repossession of their homes —

Protect them, and grant them peace.

Surround them with sensible solutions, miracles of mercy, and people who will provide them with shelter,

And hide them in the shelter of your wings.

All: Amen.

For government cuts and those living in fear of them:

Leader: Father, we thank you for our nation's historic provision of healthcare, benefits, education and international development funds.

We thank you for godly men who built systems which protected the poor and the vulnerable,

And we pray that you would raise up more honourable leaders in our generation who will steward resources wisely, and in favour of those in the most need.

Guide our politicians to the best action, which will have the least effect on the most vulnerable.

All: Protect the vulnerable and provide for the poor.

Leader: We lift to you all who are living in fear of the government's spending cuts.

For all those living on benefits,

For the long-term sick,

For the elderly,

For disabled people,

For students and prospective students

And for international governments and aid agencies.

All: Protect the vulnerable and provide for the poor.

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Leader: Lord Jesus – intercede for justice and mercy,
Protect the vulnerable,
And provide for the poor.
Bring peace, and alternative provision if needed – through us where necessary.
We know that you defend the poor and needy, and speak up for the voiceless:
Lead us to be like you
For the sake of all who are struggling, fearful or alone.

All: **Teach us to protect the vulnerable and provide for the poor.**
Amen.