

Written prayers

Sending prayers for reaching out to people who are homeless

Prayers for those amongst us who are frightened of approaching homeless people

Lord Jesus, teach us to see who you see.
Help us to be a people who can't walk past
Without stopping, and staying,
To meet a need, or listen to a story.

Make us always ready to comfort, and to pray with those on our streets –
Keep us open to what you are asking us to do for each one.
Give us your courage to look people in the eye,
And your love to reach out in compassion,

Grant us your peace so that we know we are in your hands, and doing your will,
As we step beyond what feels comfortable and safe.
May your perfect love for a stranger, cast out our fear of them
And leave us ready to be your hands and feet to them today.

Amen.

Sending prayer 1

Open our eyes to see this city like you do God,
Paved with gold, and full of your kingdom even in unlikely places.
Open our eyes to see the homeless like you do God,
Mirrors of your beauty, and your suffering, in unlikely people.

Open our hearts to respond with your love God,
To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before you,
And alongside our brothers and sisters
On these —your golden streets.

Amen.

Sending prayer 2

Precious Lord, give us a love like yours
That dies to all this world offers for one – just one
Who is lost, addicted or ashamed.

Shepherd King, give us a love like yours
That combs the streets in all weathers for one – just one

Who is overlooked, hungry or fearful.

Father God, give us a love like yours
That runs with abandon towards one glimpse – just one
Of your dirty, ragged child – standing on the street.

Healing Spirit, give us a love like yours
That can comfort, transform and liberate anyone – everyone
Through the grace and power in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of declaration for those going out

This prayer is based on Isaiah 61, Jesus' quotation of it at the start of his public ministry (Luke 4:16-21), and our call to follow him (John 14:12).

Lord Jesus, your Spirit is on us.
Because you live in us
We can tell the poor good news.

We can shelter the homeless,
And minister to the broken-hearted.
We can bring your freedom to those trapped by addiction,
Release ex-prisoners from darkness,
And free those still hounded by grief, fear and abuse.

We will proclaim the Lord's favour on those in need,
And his anger towards all who oppress the poor.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit is on us.
Because you live in us
We can comfort all who mourn,
and stand alongside all who are grieving.

Because of your work on the cross,
There is a crown of beauty to give to them instead of their ashes,
And we long to see them receive it.
We will pour out the oil of joy instead of mourning,
And give away garments of praise in exchange for rags of despair.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit is in us.
Because you live in us, we can go.
Send us in your name, with your love and power, we pray.

Amen