Intercessions, collect and post-communion prayer that can be used in your services to pray for the issues highlighted in our Childhood Behind Bars Campaign.

Intercessions for Childhood Behind Bars

Let us pray to the God who comes to bring justice and peace.

For the Church:
Come, Lord Jesus, and awaken your Church to the urgency of your kingdom.
Give us courage to speak truth, to act for justice, and to walk in your light.
May we be watchful and ready, clothed with Christ and filled with hope.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations:
Come, Lord Jesus, and bring peace among the nations.
Turn the hearts of leaders from violence and oppression to righteousness and mercy.
May swords be beaten into ploughshares, and children grow up free from fear.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For children behind bars:
Come, Lord Jesus, and draw near to every child deprived of freedom.
For those held without trial, for families torn apart, and for communities living under occupation, bring justice, restoration, and hope.
Bless the work of Embrace the Middle East and all who work to heal the young lives fractured by the consequences of conflict, violence and fear.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer:
Come, Lord Jesus, to all who live in darkness.
Come to victims of war, to those who grieve, to those who hunger for justice.
May your light shine in every shadow, and your kingdom break in with healing and peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For ourselves:

Come, Lord Jesus, and keep us awake to your presence.
Help us to live as children of the day, ready to act with compassion and courage.
May our lives reflect your coming kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Collect for Childhood Behind Bars

Almighty God,
whose kingdom is justice and peace,
look with compassion on children deprived of freedom,
and on all who suffer under oppression and fear.
Awaken our hearts to act with courage,
that swords may be beaten into ploughshares
and every child may know safety and hope
in the coming reign of Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer for Childhood Behind Bars

God of justice and peace,
we thank you for feeding us with the bread of life
and renewing us with the hope of your kingdom.
As we go from this table,
keep us awake to your presence in the world.
Strengthen us to work for justice,
to speak for those whose voices are silenced,
and to walk in your light until swords are beaten into ploughshares
and every child knows freedom and peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.