



Special Prayer – August 14th

A PowerPoint file of this prayer can also be downloaded from the IDEAS web site and used in worship.

Prayer for unrest in Britain

Originator: Mr Roger Johnson

The approach of these prayers is not simply to condemn the rioters but also to recognise that they are a product of a society which needs healing. At this time of tension and fear, these prayers may help you in your daily intercessions.

For the Police and other Emergency Services

Lord, we pray for the police, the fire brigade and paramedics who daily put their lives at risk in order to rescue other people. We thank you for their dedication and courage. We pray for those we know in these services who are facing danger today. We pray for their families and the anguish they feel as they watch their loved one going to work.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Politicians

Lord, we pray for those we have elected to rule this nation. They have to make hard decisions in the face of escalating violence in this country and mounting financial crises around the world. Grant them wisdom, courage and compassion as they work together to shape the future of our nation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Community Leaders

Lord, we pray for community leaders working tirelessly to bring harmony and healing to troubled areas of our towns, especially those working in deprived areas. We pray also for church leaders as they seek to be salt and light in their communities. Help them as they reach out in Christ's name to the marginalised and hurting members of our society.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those involved in rioting

Lord, forgive us when we tar everyone with the same brush and assume that those who vent their anger through rioting, looting and attacking the police are all criminals. Help us to listen to the pain of the unemployed and unemployable and those facing economic hardship who see the affluence around them and yet no hope in their own future.

But we pray also for those who are exploiting the unrest by engaging in criminal activity. Lord, we ask that such people will be touched by your Holy Spirit and will hear the cries of anguish from those whose lives and livelihoods are being destroyed by their reckless acts.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves

Lord, many of us are fearful that we too may become victims of the violence and lawlessness we see around us. Help us to play our part in building a just and loving society by praying for all in need, valuing all who contribute sacrificially to society and reaching out, as Jesus did, to the poor, marginalised, disadvantaged and hurting members of society. Give us eyes to see as you see – ears to hear as you hear – hearts to love as you love – and a willingness at all times to forgive and heal those around us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

IDEAS is a resource for All-Age worship produced each week from the Lectionary by the Family Friendly Churches Trust. You can see more about this from the IDEAS website, www.FFCTIDEAS.org.uk

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