

## Confession

Today we confess,  
aware that we pray for ourselves,  
and our church  
and our society.  
Jesus said,  
“Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.  
Love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater  
than these.”  
No abuse of any sort,  
Over any person,  
Created in the image of God  
Is ever acceptable.  
Abuse is about the misuse of power.  
Fear comes from an absence of love.

(All)

**God of every person,  
We confess to you,  
Our neglect and forgetfulness  
Of your commandments;  
As a church and as individuals;  
Through history, in our society;  
In our leisure times and at home,  
Our love has fallen short  
And we have marred your image in us.**

Jesus said,  
“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
Because he has anointed me  
To proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim  
Freedom for the prisoners  
And recovery of sight for the blind,  
To set the oppressed free,  
To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

**Merciful and loving God,  
We confess our wrongdoing,  
Our wrong thinking  
And our hurtful words.  
We recognise that abuse  
Imprisons and oppresses people.  
We recognise that silence,  
In the face of abuse,  
is not an acceptable option.**

**Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.  
To speak out  
Against the abuse of power;  
Especially in our homes.  
To speak up  
For those who have been pushed down  
In any way.  
To speak to  
The needs of those who are suffering  
At the hands of another.  
We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ,  
Who extended his forgiving hands to all.  
Amen.**