

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.**