



Prayers for Recovery

Presbyterian Women's Substance Use Disorder Initiative

Prayer for the Congregation¹

Loving God, we ask your comfort and healing for those among us struggling with substance use disorder. We know their suffering is great and their isolation sometimes unbearable. May they experience the love and support of their family and community. Give us the courage to reach out to them in love and help them experience the effective treatment they need from doctors and caregivers. We ask for your grace and mercy for their journey as they face the many challenges of living with substance use disorder and the underlying pain that often leads to addiction. Bless those who work to provide services for those struggling with addictions. By your grace, may we be a community that shows compassion for those who are suffering. Amen.

Prayers of the People²

Leader: For those who through addiction to alcohol and other drugs have lost their health and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those in our communities who are in pain, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, who are vulnerable to substance misuse and addiction, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who suffer as a result of another's addiction or abuse of alcohol and other drugs, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who care for the victims of addiction; for professionals and members of support groups; for all those in our churches who make a difference for good as they minister to the addicted and the afflicted, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who are recovering from addiction, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: That we may all live our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and all those living in the hope of redemption, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer³

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attach them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them give patient understanding and persevering love, your mercy's sake. Amen.

Notes

1. Adapted from a prayer for those affected by mental health and substance use disorders by Dr. David Litts of Your Life Matters!, an initiative of Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (<https://theactionalliance.org>).

2. Adapted from *Addiction, Grace and Healing*, an alcohol-drug awareness resource for congregations produced in collaboration by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/Presbyterian Network on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Church of the Brethren's Addictions Network, and the National Episcopal Coalition on Alcohol and Drugs; download the resource from www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/addiction-grace-healing/.

3. Ibid.

