



GLOBAL COMMUNITY PRAYER STATIONS

The following prayer stations link to [Prayer Matters](#) from 14-20 October 2023.

Introduction (Luke 10:25-37)

The theme for International Development Week 2023 is Global Community: exploring what it means to be community and considering the idea that church should be an example of community at its best - loving, serving, inclusive, generous. When Jesus was asked 'Who is my neighbour?' (Luke 10:29) he told a story that broadened people's thinking. Lord, help us to look beyond what is familiar and comfortable to those outside of our geographical locations and familial bonds, and recognise ourselves as members of a global community, interconnected as children of God. Amen.

A Loving Community (John 13:34-35)

Jesus' teachings encourage a radical and transformative kind of love that extends beyond personal preferences to love all people, not just those we know and like. We are called by Jesus to express love as a mark of discipleship. Lord, when we show love for one another, help us to reflect your love into the world and express a commitment to selflessness. Amen.

- **Love in Action**
- Provide art supplies and a canvas. Invite participants to create a collaborative artwork that portrays love through colours, shapes and words. As they work together, encourage prayers for demonstrating love through everyday actions.

A Generous Community (Acts 4:32-35)

Throughout the New Testament, churches are shown as communities both at their best - living out hospitality and generosity - and at their worst - embracing jealousy and gossiping with one another. Towards the end of Acts 4 we see the community of believers sharing all that they have and doing life together - and God was at work in them. Heavenly Father, give me a heart of generosity, and help me to hold my possessions lightly, trusting in your bountiful grace and faithfulness. Amen.

- **Seeds of Generosity**
- Provide small plant pots, compost and seeds. Invite participants to plant a seed while reflecting on the concept of sowing generosity. Encourage prayers for opportunities to give and share generously within the community.

A Compassionate Community (Romans 12:9-16)

People in our world are in pain. Pain caused by war, hunger, isolation, poverty and exploitation. Pain caused by other human beings. We must be stirred to action. But first, perhaps we should weep. Henri Nouwen said: 'Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears.' Lord



God, fill my heart with love and compassion for those I know and for those I will never meet. Amen.

- **Leaves of Compassion**
- Provide a bare tree (could be 3D or a picture) and paper leaves. Invite people to write down ideas on the leaves of how you might show love to your local and global community. Consider how each additional leaf shows love and compassion flourishing in our world.

An Supportive Community (Isaiah 58:6-7)

'This group has helped me and my friends. I realise how dangerous human trafficking is in my community so I keep talking to my friends about it.' These are the words of Clinton, a survivor of human trafficking and part of The Salvation Army's anti-trafficking project in Uganda. Through community focus groups, he has joined with others to protect themselves, and one another, from the threat of trafficking. Pray that communities will be strengthened to support each other and stand against injustice.

- **Puzzle of Support**
- Prepare a large jigsaw puzzle. Invite people to work together to complete it (for example, encourage people to place a few pieces before moving on to allow others a chance to contribute).

An Inclusive Community (Acts 15)

We can easily mistake diversity for division. We can easily feel disconnected from people in other parts of the world, in cultures dissimilar from our own. But we have so much to learn from those whose experiences differ from our own; the world is smaller than it seems. Lord, help us to celebrate diversity whilst embracing unity. Amen.

- **Woven Together**
- Set up a station with different coloured threads or ribbons. Invite participants to weave the threads together, symbolising the unity and beauty that diversity brings to the community. As they weave, encourage prayers for embracing differences and fostering an inclusive spirit.

An Active Community (James 2:14-26)

Mighty God, empower us so that our actions reflect the faith we proclaim. May our hearts be moved to compassion, and our hands be ready to serve. Let our lives reflect your love, showing that our faith is alive through our deeds. Amen.

- **Global Footprint**
- Set up a large footprint template. Provide markers or paints. Invite participants to fill in the footprint with words or images that reflect ways you will 'step into' and participate in your local and global community.