

Recognizing our lack of training and sufficient insight into how to minister to and counsel those in prison, *and* acknowledging our desire “to pass by on the other side of the road,” we affirm before you, O God, our heartfelt intentions:

to be in regular prayer for those jailed and imprisoned,
to support the ministry of chaplains and other gifted
Christians, and

to give of our time, money and other resources to assure the
continuation of this ministry in lieu of our “visiting those
in prison” whom you urged us to visit.

**May your love and justice be manifest in our lives. We pray,
“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven.” Amen.**

DUKE STREET (22 Q)

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - ners

ces - sive jour - neys run; his King - dom stretch from
leap to lose their chains; the wea - ry find e -

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blessed.

A Prayer for Ministry among the Imprisoned

O God, we bow before you in worship and thanksgiving, as well as to confess our sinfulness and beg your enabling of us to new desires to serve where you call us.

We begin by praising you as the Creator of the beauty and abundance of the earth in which you have placed us and nourish us.

OLD HUNDREDTH (22 E)

From all that dwell be - low the skies let
Your loft - y themes, all mor - tals, bring; in

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's
songs of praise di - vine - ly sing; the great sal - va - tion

name be sung through ev - 'ry land, by ev - 'ry tongue.
loud pro - claim and shout for joy the Sav - ior's name.

We praise you for the love and grace with which you shower us. We praise you for your gifts of mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

We praise and thank you, O God.

We thank you for the Christian homes and families that nourished us.
We thank you for the Church families that helped form our lives.
We thank you for your Holy Scriptures which have instructed us.
We thank you for coming in Jesus Christ to teach, live and die for us.
We thank you for your Holy Spirit who calls us to faith and
Christian living and witness and service.

We praise and thank you, O God.

BUNESSAN

Fa-ther, we praise you; Je-sus, we love you; Spir-it, we

thank you, for these new days; help us to know, Lord; help us to

grow, Lord; help us to sow, Lord, your love al-ways.

Text © 1993 C. Daniel Crews. Setting © 1993 Brian Henkelmann. Used by permission.

We confess that we are sinners, all of us.

We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone,
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent, asking your forgiveness and help that we may walk in your paths of righteousness and service to you and our brother and sister neighbors.

Without Christ we were strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He is our peace.

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, with Christ himself as the cornerstone.

We would be reminded, today, of the multiple needs for ministry among those who are in our jails and prisons:

many are sick physically and/or mentally, many spiritually and morally as well,
many are victims of disadvantage, dysfunctional early family life, and, in too many cases, our excessive incarceration and some even of injustice,
they cannot show love to their spouses,
they cannot parent and provide for or comfort their children,
they cannot help needy parents and relatives,
they cannot build sustainable careers of profitable work,
and much more.

We offer our prayers for them, and our sympathy to them, and we ask you to help us overcome our tendencies to judge them, remembering that in your view it is not "us" and "them," but we are all part of your One Family, hence, brothers and sisters.