

Prisons Week: *Singing the Faith* hymns

Suggesting hymns to accompany our thinking and praying during Prisons Week can easily become an exercise in shoe-horning the experiences of others into our own expressions of faith.

Many of us know or understand little about those who encounter prison environments – as prisoners, as relatives, or as employees in prisons. We must be careful to avoid the danger of making crass comparisons that either simplify lived experience or distort careful expressions of Christian faith.



With that in mind, below are a few hymn suggestions that reflect different groups of individuals engaged in different ways with our criminal justice system.

Also see the [Prisons Week website](#) for daily prayers. (Search for details of this year's campaign.)

THE PRISONS WEEK PRAYER Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

[Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak](#) (StF 524)

For those who are prisoners

[Empty, broken, here I stand, Kyrie eleison](#) (StF 421)

[Lord, we turn to you for mercy](#) (StF 429)

For victims of crime

[Here as we kneel, here as we pray](#) (StF 521)

[When the bonds of love are breaking](#) (StF 656)

For families of prisoners

[God grant us words to speak when words are all we bear](#) (StF 647)

[God! When human bonds are broken](#) (StF 649)

For our communities

[Brother, sister, let me serve you](#) (StF 611)

[Community of Christ, who make you cross your own](#) (StF 681)

For those who work in prisons

[Called by Christ to be disciples every day in every place](#) (StF 660)

[Teach me, my God and king, in all things thee to see](#) (StF 668)

For all working in the criminal justice system

[Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?](#) (StF 662)

[I will speak out for those who have no voices](#) (StF 702)