

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISON MINISTRY 25 AUGUST, 2019



The logo for the Global Day of Prayer, Peter's release from prison, was painted and given to IPCA by Jesper Neve. Please use this material (or translate to other languages) so that those in prison ministry around the world can come together as one in prayer on this day.



OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace (My chains are Gone)
Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

*My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace.*

GREETING

L: In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life

R: Amen

L: Grace and peace to you from God

R: God fill you with peace and joy.

L: Let us acknowledge the first inhabitants of this region/nation and the traditional custodians of the land where we live, work and pray.

(You can use the words of John Newton, to introduce the focus of the Prayer Day "I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy ... unless it was to show, by one astonishing instance, that with him 'nothing is impossible'")

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Psalm 145:1-5

R: I will extol you, my God and King,

and bless your name forever and ever.

Reader one: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

**R: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**

Reader one: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

**R: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**

Reader one: On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**R: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**

L: Your Word, O God, is a lamp to our feet:

R: A light to our path

L: The wisdom of God

R: God's Word made new.

Reader two: A reading from John (9:1-12)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he? He said, "I do not know." (NRSV translation)

L: As we sing the very familiar words of this hymn, how powerful it is to think of ourselves as an "astonishing instance" of God's grace and mercy.

Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)

Chris Tomlin

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbear to shine

But God who called me here below will be forever mine.

*My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace.*

REFLECTION

Suggestions depending on group addressed

- that we are all graced by God
- the forgiveness of God – and how difficult it is to live out that grace
- love of God shown through Jesus Christ
- how Jesus Christ came for the sinners and outcasts, those thirsting for grace
- how we know and share grace by being graced

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Faithful and merciful God, your promise is true as once you redeemed slaves into freedom, in the fullness of time you sent your own, Jesus, to fulfil the prophets and free all humankind.

**R: You anointed him with your Spirit to preach good news to the poor
And make the broken-hearted whole.
He healed the sick and gave sight to the blind. He freed people from powers
and oppressors.**

L: In your mercy, hear us Lord, as we come together in the prayer you gave to us

R: Our Father....

BLESSING

Go now, and live before God with integrity,
Set your mind on the ways of God, not clinging to your own life, but taking up your cross
And following the Christ who is loving and wise.

Wisdom is brilliant, she never fades by those who love her, she is easily seen,
by those who seek her, she is readily found.

She is a breath of God's power, and image of God's goodness,
the eternal light and mirror of God's glory.

Now let + Wisdom do all things, renew all things, and pass into holy souls everywhere to
make them friends of God.

Amazing Grace (My chains are Gone)
Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind, but now I see

For the last ten years the IPCA Steering Committee has invited all those involved in prison ministry around the world to come together in a special day of prayer on 25 August, the birthday of IPCA. We would like too thank members of IPCA Oceania for arranging this year's program.

