



2019 Day of Hope Worship Resources

September 13 – 15, 2019

Call to Worship (Ez. 11, Ps. 51)

Leader: The opioid crisis overwhelms us, and there is no end in sight.

People: Yet, through you, all things are possible if we trust your word and heed your call.

Leader: We see the news and observe illicit activities in our communities, but we can be so willingly blind to the depth of the suffering at the heart of this epidemic.

People: Lord you healed the blind, so open our eyes too and heal our blindness Lord.

Leader: If we are truly honest with ourselves, we are often hard-hearted to those in the midst of addiction.

People: Remove our hearts of stone - give us new hearts that your unfailing love may flow forth.

All: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us to be your life saving hands in the midst of this deadly epidemic.

Opening Prayer

Lord of light, you ventured forth into the dark places where your presence was needed most. Send your Holy Spirit to cultivate your holy fire in us, so that we might shine brilliantly for you. Lord, use this sacred time of worship to kindle our flame anew. Empower us that we may go forth from these walls into the midst of this epidemic, shining your light wherever you guide us. Amen.

Litany

The Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Church in Rome, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer,” so let us now pray together on this Day of Hope.

God of redemption, for those who battle substance use disorder, we ask for healing. For those trapped in the throes of addiction, we ask for release. For those who have lost all hope, we ask for faith.

Lord, you are a strong deliverer!

For those who have the spark of courage to make the first steps toward healing, we ask for strength. For those who are going through detox, we ask for endurance. For those who are just beginning the hard work of recovery, we ask for perseverance.

You are the sure foundation!

For those who are in long-term recovery, we ask that you would continue to sustain them. May they be surrounded by the support systems they need. May they use their sufferings and struggles to bless others.

We know that you are a God who can bring about good, even through pain!

For family members who share in the sufferings of their loved ones, we ask for peace. For those who are at the point of exhaustion, we ask for rest. For those who just don't know what to do anymore, we ask for wisdom.

God of love, walk with them!

For children who are living with relatives or foster parents, we ask for peace in the midst of chaos. Where there is fear, may love envelop them. Grant them security and stability. Heal whatever brokenness they are experiencing.

The kingdom of God belongs to such as these!

For grandparents who are raising grandchildren, for families opening up their hearts and homes to be places of care and safety, and for all who care for children who are unable to live with their parents, we ask that you would provide them with every need. Give them strength, and pour out your love into their hearts that it may continually overflow to the children they care for.

May their love always protect, always trust, always hope, and always persevere!

For those who grieve the unimaginable loss of a loved one due to overdose or other reasons related to substance use, we ask for your peace that surpasses all understanding. For their loved ones, may light perpetual shine upon them. For those whose sobs are uncontrollable, may they know that you weep and wail with them and there is nothing that can separate themselves or their loved ones from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

With you, O God, death and grief will not be the final word!

For healthcare professionals, pharmacists, recovery coaches, counselors, and all of those who work in areas of prevention and recovery, we ask for wisdom and passion, that the flame of hope and the zeal for doing the hard things would never be extinguished.

May they never tire of doing what is good!

For first responders, who are on the front lines and often bear the brunt of the opioid crisis, we ask that you would continue to enliven them. Give them hope when cynicism takes root. Give them healing when despair rears its ugly head. Give them rest when they've just had too much.

Raise them up! Give them strength for the work you have called them to!

For policy makers who work each day to create and pass legislation, we ask that they would have your wisdom and discernment, seeking to do everything in their power to create pathways to recovery, re-entry, and rehabilitation. Help them to see past the perceived irreconcilable divide of partisan politics, in order to work together for the common good of their communities that are ravaged by the opioid crisis.

Give them purity of heart and earnest desire!

For our faith communities, we ask that your Spirit would guide us. Show us how you would have us engage with those battling addiction, with those who are grieving, and with recovery efforts. May we leave the hope of Christ in our wake. Give us the courage to step out in faith, even when we feel uncertain and unequipped.

With you, all things are possible!

Lord God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you cast out the legion of demons from the man living among the tombs. You restored him to his life and to his community. We are trusting that you will do nothing less in these days we are in now! Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us here and now. Embolden us! Revive us! Send us, in Jesus' name. Amen.
