

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

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Ruler of the night, Guarantor of the Day, we gather before Thee to witness on behalf of sisters and brothers living tortured lives of solitary confinement, mostly without meaningful human contact. We beseech Thee to be with them during their sleeping and during their waking that they may know Thy peace and comfort, that they may somehow find Thy holiness in the hell-holes called solitary confinement

Those of us who are free are privileged people. Many of us can only wonder about solitary confinement and just as we cannot look too long into the sun we find it painful to ponder the deep loneliness and sorrow concomitant with the horror of solitary confinement.

We have been commanded by Thee to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and visit the prisoners. Require us not to take these responsibilities lightly. We seek thy strength as we struggle to free the oppressed.

Give us new visions of people freed from silence and solitude, give us strength and courage beyond committees, hearings and memos, beyond calls and appointments, beyond frazzled expectations. Turn us toward the light as we pray for those who live in the darkness of despair.

Today we submit our ways to Thee, the One who promises the way and the truth and the life. Grant us courage and grant us strength as we fight for justice.

We pray in the name of all that is holy. Amen.