

Photo from Pamir Highway, Dorf, Afghanistan

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU

Remembering the Persecuted Church in Afghanistan

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”

Matthew 5:44-45

INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE
PERSECUTED
CHURCH

OSJ
Office of Social Justice



A Litany for the Persecuted Church in Afghanistan

Jesus says, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Our hearts are moved by the suffering of Christians and other religious minorities in Afghanistan. While conditions there remain unclear, we know that God desires his people to seek him in all circumstances.

We long for shalom in Afghanistan, and we thank God for his continuing presence there. **“We believe that this good God . . . did not abandon [people] to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to his holy will.”**

(Belgic Confession, Art. 13)

We pray that hearts are softened toward all people. **“God created [people] good and in his own image . . . so that they might truly know God their creator, love him with all their heart, and live with God in eternal happiness, to praise and glorify him.”**

(Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 6)

We confess that our own sinful nature has broken God’s good plan for the flourishing of his creation, and we cannot do good apart from God’s saving grace. **“We believe that our good God, by marvelous divine wisdom and goodness . . . set out to find [the lost], though they, trembling all over, were fleeing from God.”**

(Belgic Confession, Art. 17)

We pray that the Spirit would prompt expressions of Jesus’ love for all nations and that the government would permit religious liberty to the faith practices of all citizens. **We believe it is God who freely grants faith, “forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merit.”**

(Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21)

We pray for the comfort of all who are persecuted and remember those who are imprisoned as if we are together with them in prison. **God, watch over them “with fatherly care, sustaining all creatures” under your lordship. “In this thought we rest.”**

(Belgic Confession, Art. 13)