



DC127

DC127 Stand Sunday Prayer - 2017

Reader:

On this Stand Sunday, we join with your people across our city, country, and world to pray for children. We know that love for these precious children begins not with us, but with you. You pursued us when we were wayward and alone. You adopted us as your children. You invite us to address you as a parent and to live as your sons and daughters. Truly, we love because you first loved us.

Church:

Lord, hear our prayers.

Reader:

You tell us also that you are near to the downtrodden and destitute. Your heart aches for children that face the world alone. You champion the cause of those who have no one else to take their side. And you call us to do the same.

Church:

Lord, be near to these children. Use us to be your hands and feet.

Reader:

We pray that you would rouse us to share your heart. We ask that you would stir your people to passion and vision and action on behalf of children that have no family and those in families who are in crisis. We lift up to you the 960 children in DC's foster care system. Provide them with stable homes, whether adoptive or biological, please give each of these children a loving family to grow up in.

Church:

Lord, hear our prayers.

Reader:

We lift up to you the over 1,700 children in DC who are at risk of entering foster care. Provide for their needs. Give each father and mother who is working so hard to care for their children the strength and support they need to stabilize their family.

Church:

Lord, hear our prayers.

Reader:

We also remember the over 415,000 children in foster care in the United States. As this number rises alongside the national opioid epidemic, give wisdom to those who are responding. Bring relief for the overburdened foster care agencies, and call new foster families to respond to the overwhelming need.

We remember the millions of children globally who have lost their parents to disease, war, and poverty. As you promise to do, place the lonely in families. Be their defender, their provider, their hope, and their peace. Bring healing to children affected by trauma and bring peace to those displaced by war. Help us to do the same.

Church:

Lord, hear our prayers.

Reader:

For each social worker, foster parent, teacher, therapist, lawyer, doctor, and every other person working on behalf of the children in DC, around our country, and around our world, we pray that you give them rest. May you be where they find their strength. Equip them with the training and financial resources they need to care for these children.

Church:

Lord, hear our prayers.

Reader:

And for your church – may you move the people of God to respond to the needs of children. May we see your reflection in each of their lives and respond knowing each of these children and youth are your image bearers. We confess that we have often lived with little regard for their lives, please forgive us. Move us to take up their cause, driven by your love so that we can be part of your transformation in our world. May we respond when you call us.

Church:

Lord, may we respond to your call.

All:

We commit this all to you, the One who is a father and mother to all, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.