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## Additional Prayers for Congregations *Juvenile Justice Month of Faith & Healing*

### FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER:

#### **A Prayer for Social Justice** (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 823*)

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [*and especially the hearts of people in this land*], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Prayer for Young Persons** (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 829*)

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Prayer attributed to St. Francis** (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 833*)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

### OTHER PRAYERS:

#### **For Incarcerated Youth**

Loving and merciful God, you have made us all in your own image and have accepted us into your family. Grant our young people in prison the hope, strength, and peace that come from being loved and accepted into one Body. Protect them and defend them as they navigate the confusing world of our justice system. Help them remember that they are loved, even when they are away from their homes, churches, and communities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **For Those who Work in the Justice System**

Almighty God, you have sent your Son to us as an example of love and compassion. Grant that all who work in our justice system may work for peace and truth, especially with youth in the system. Give them the wisdom and courage to stand up for what is right and just and a heart to show compassion toward young people who face incarceration. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.