

William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, Anti-Slavery Campaigners (1833, 1797 & 1846)

30th July

God of truth and justice
in your Son Jesus Christ people of all races
are adopted as your children.

We thank you for Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano and William Wilberforce
and all who devoted themselves to the abolition of slavery in the past.

Give your Church courage to stand for the dignity of all.

Forgive the sins of past prejudice and slowness to recognise evil.

Inspire all who proclaim the name of Christ with your wisdom
to be agents of transformation and peace.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness, O Lord

For you are my hope and salvation

God of truth and justice
in your amazing grace hearts are turned from indifference
to passionate pursuit of liberation.

Stir those in power to work for the eradication of all forms of slavery today.

Sustain all trafficked and exploited peoples;

those who are sold and abused as commodities for others' gratification.

May we hear today the fulfilment of your word.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness, O Lord

For you are my hope and salvation

God of truth and justice
you announce good news to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.

Extend the boundaries of our compassion
to include fairness in trading at home and abroad.

Give us the will to challenge structures
that keep many locked into poverty and deprivation.

Make us worthy of your majesty and honour.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness, O Lord

For you are my hope and salvation

God of truth and justice
you hear the cry of all in distress.
Pour out the abundance of your mercy
on all weighed down by sufferings of mind or body...
Break the chains that restrict the spirit
that we may sing songs of praise and hope.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness, O Lord
For you are my hope and salvation

God of truth and justice
in your Son we are born to new life
and no one is beyond your reach.
Proclaim your favour to all who have entered the shadow of death...
Give comfort to grieving hearts
and bring us to rejoice in your eternity.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness, O Lord
For you are my hope and salvation

*These prayers form an appendix to **Ian Black Intercessions for the Calendar of Saints and Holy Days (SPCK 2005)**. They were written following the addition of two other anti-slavery campaigners to William Wilberforce's commemoration on 30th July.*

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