

Responsive Prayer
(based on Isaiah 61:1-4)

LEADER:

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."

Great God of power,
In your mercy you have anointed us to go out in your name,
To tell your story, and to spread your fame.

ALL:

**Lord, we welcome your spirit's power into our lives.
Give us boldness to speak of you,
Give us courage to boast in you,
Give us determination to see your word preached to the ends of the earth.**

LEADER:

"He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."

God of loving kindness,
You have empowered us to bring transformation into the lives of those around us,
To heal the sick, and to set the captives free.

ALL:

**Lord, we welcome your Spirit's love into our lives.
Use us to bind up the broken,
Use us to swing wide the prison doors,
Use us to bring the wounded and the weary to your banquet of lavish love.**

LEADER:

"He has sent me to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God."

Steadfast God of truth,
You have called us to be a prophetic voice for hope and justice,
To confront unrighteousness, and to champion integrity.

ALL:

**Lord, we welcome your Son's excellent standards in our lives.
We will shout out for justice,
We will proclaim truth, no matter how costly,
We will sing out the song of hope wherever we find ourselves.**

LEADER:

"He has sent me to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called

oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour."
Gracious God of abundance,
You have filled our lives to overflowing with your riches,
So that we can enjoy you without ration, and receive from you without limit.

ALL:

**Lord, we welcome your nourishing, sustaining presence in our lives.
We choose to put our roots down deep in the soil of your word,
We choose to draw on the life-giving water of your spirit every day,
We choose to soak our souls in you, so that your fragrance will spill out of our lives into the world around us.**

LEADER:

"They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will
renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."
Mighty God of eternal hope,
You have commissioned us to join you in your great work of restoration,
To walk through the ruins, bringing peace and new life.

ALL:

**Lord, we willingly embrace the mission your conquering Son has entrusted to us.
We offer you our own ruined places, to be rebuilt to your design;
We offer you our time and talents, to be invested for your Kingdom;
We offer you our plans, to be woven into your redemption story;
And, as so many have done before us, we offer you ourselves, body, soul, mind and spirit,
That we may take our place in the glorious adventure of infusing your creation with self-
denying holiness and death-defying hope.**

**And all this we declare in the matchless name of Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of
Lords,
AMEN!**

**This prayer was composed by Lyndall Bywater, National Prayer Co-ordinator for The
Salvation Army, to be used first at the thanksgiving service for the life of a beloved friend
and fellow-prayer-warrior. We pray you will be blessed and empowered as you use it.**