



From the Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing Resources for the Day of Prayer to End Homelessness

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Background information about housing insecurity:

Families and individuals are at risk of losing housing or unhoused and unable to access housing when housing prices are above their incomes. They are also displaced when the condition of their housing deteriorates to the point it is unsafe to remain and when relationships are broken. The housing market—and therefore the income needed for stable housing—varies widely but throughout our state and country, everywhere there is a deepening shortage of housing units affordable to those with extremely low incomes, especially families with children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-wage workers. Short supply and high demand for housing pushes costs higher, displacing more people, especially in regions of prosperity. Children are especially at risk of losing housing: [The Americans Most Threatened by Eviction: Young Children - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#) Statistical data for state: [North Carolina | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#); data by county: [County Profiles – North Carolina Housing Coalition \(nchousing.org\)](#)

Collects:

Oh God,

Open our eyes to see your homeless children who have no place to call home. Open our hearts to feel the pain of their daily struggles to find a safe and secure place to rest.

Make us advocates for public policy and allocation of resources to increase the availability of safe, affordable housing options in our communities.

Give us the compassion to share our blessings freely with our brothers and sister so that we can all have a place to call home.

Help us to truly love our neighbors as ourselves as builders of the beloved community.

Amen

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah Chapter 32 Verse 18

Almighty God, in our desire to Obey and Act on Your Word, we, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, offer ourselves as the conduit to provide shelter and places of rest & nourishment for your Creation, our neighbors. It is written, Faith without Works is dead. Establish the Work of Hands in this our endeavor. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Gracious God, help us not to be hypocrites of lip service but the disciples of action. Keep our hearts soft enough to keep hearing the cry of people experiencing homelessness. Remind us, O God, that we cannot fully rest and secure in our houses every night until all your people are, at last, home. In Jesus' name. Amen

O God of Loving Devotion, please be near our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Remain by their sides and meet their needs. Show me how to be a part of their lives by generously giving my prayers, time, and money to help them. Guide me so that I can spread your word to them. Direct my actions so that I can help the world understand that when we help those without housing, we are acting as the body of Christ. I ask You, almighty Father, to show me unending opportunities to help and serve others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayers of the People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “*Lord, have mercy.*”

We pray for Your church around the world, that every member of the Church may be faithful to Your will for all Your children to have safe places to live. Forgive us when we fail to welcome home Your sisters and brothers, as we would welcome You.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, that they may support housing with their funds and policies. Forgive us when we fail to speak up to our elected and persons in authority on behalf of people without homes.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for those who have died because they did not have the security of a home due to both natural and manmade issues.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for grace and wisdom and courage to use our resources to increase the housing opportunities available for Your children in poverty. Forgive us when we forget that stewardship of our church property is using it for Your mission, not preserving it for ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who have lost their housing and those in distress because their homes are at risk. Forgive us when we take our own homes for granted.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for those who have died because they do not have the security of home or in house fires or collapsed buildings. Forgive us when our only response is “thoughts and prayers”.

Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

Prayer formatted for cards or bookmarks.

Print on the back:

For more information: episdionc.org/affordable-housing or Affordablehousing@episdionc.org

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