

A Crafted Prayer for the Church in Norwich – (based on the form of Daniel 9)

O Lord our God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we confess to You that we have sinned.
In wickedness, we have rebelled against your ways.
We have ignored your prophetic word and have even ignored your warning of curses when we've not blessed your ancient people. We repent of the 'blood libel', and seek to bless your people Israel.

We have not attended to the truth.
We are undone before You, Lord.
Righteous God, it is we who are covered in shame after many centuries of sinfulness.

Many covenants have been broken, trust has been undermined, and deceitfulness has prevailed over the oppressed.
So much innocent and unnecessary blood has been shed, again and again, causing pain and choking the river and staining the land.
We acknowledge that various ungodly and false religious practices have become established, and have stained the land.
We confess that sexual immorality has become rooted and spreads as if it didn't matter.

As a Church, we have allowed the uncertainty of our roots to weaken our witness.
We have not stood together nor spoken with one voice for the sake of the city of Norwich.
We have preferred our own ways to the teaching of our Saviour, Jesus.
We have not always acted in loving obedience to your Holy Spirit, but have become fragmented. We have not given close attention to your voice, and have become sleepy.
We have dropped our spiritual guard and left the city of Norwich vulnerable.

But we believe and know that with You there is forgiveness, so that You may be feared.
We now turn to You in humility and in prayer.
We turn to seek your face and turn from the ways of wickedness.
Hear our confession, we pray, and forgive the sins that we and our forefathers have committed, and heal this land.

We confess the desolation and waste, the waywardness and pain that has befallen this city.
We are a community of broken and hurting people before You.
We have often rebelled against each other and have been unwelcoming to new folk.
Without your help, Norwich is unable to fulfil its destiny as a city of refuge for the needy.
We ask You to reveal afresh your loving purposes for the city of Norwich, and give courage to its leaders to seek your ways.

We humbly ask You to look with favour upon us.
We humbly ask You to pour out your Spirit afresh and to revive your Church again, that we may be a true witness to Jesus and bear the fruit that You desire and require of us.
We humbly ask You to cause your Church to rise up out of sleep, to shine, to unite in prayer and to exercise its appointed ministry to the city.

O Lord our God, have mercy upon us all. Make haste to help us.
In accordance with the promises of your Word, and for the sake of your Holy Name, heal this land and let your glory fall.

We pray in the mighty Name of Jesus. Amen.