

Supported by

**thirtyone:
eight**



**Safeguarding
Sunday**

A safe place and a light

A liturgy for children and adults

Adapted from a liturgy written by **Ruth Burgess** taken
from *The Pattern of Our Days* edited by **Kathy Galloway**
Used with kind permission of **Wild Goose Publications**
www.ionabooks.com

Prayers, songs and reflections can be found at:
thirtyoneeight.org/SafeguardingSunday



Opening responses

Leader: *When we are happy*
When we are full of fun and laughter

All: God welcomes us

Leader: *When we are angry*
When people let us down and make us sad

All: God welcomes us

Leader: *When we are tired*
When we need to stop and curl up and rest

All: God welcomes us

Leader: *God of welcome*
God whose door is always open

All: We are glad to meet you here

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

Leader: A special prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

Loving Father God,

We come to you in the knowledge that you hold all your children in unconditional love.

We lift to you those who are vulnerable and in need of protection, give them your safety, comfort and peace.

We cry to you for those who are hurting and whose trust has been broken, give them your healing, restoration and justice.

We bring to you those who seek to forgive others who have hurt them, give them your strength, courage and hope.

*For those who have caused your children to stumble,
lead them to seek your forgiveness and to enter into true repentance.*

*Thank you for all who give their time, knowledge, and skills to
make our communities safer,
give them your wisdom, guidance and grace.*

*For ourselves, we ask you to give us your heart for the vulnerable,
the oppressed, the voiceless and the forgotten. Help us to see them
as you see them; to value them as you value them, and to nurture
and protect them as you desire.*

Help each one of us play our part in creating safer places for all your people.

In your name we pray,

Amen

Reading: Psalm 91 (NLV)

The Lord - the One We Trust

¹ He who lives in the safe place of the Most High will be in the shadow of the All-powerful. ² I will say to the Lord, "You are my safe and strong place, my God, in Whom I trust." ³ For it is He Who takes you away from the trap, and from the killing sickness. ⁴ He will cover you with His wings. And under His wings you will be safe. He is faithful like a safe-covering and a strong wall.

⁵ You will not be afraid of trouble at night, or of the arrow that flies by day. ⁶ You will not be afraid of the sickness that walks in darkness, or of the trouble that destroys at noon. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand. But it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look on with your eyes and see how the sinful are punished. ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your safe place, and the Most High the place where you live, ¹⁰ nothing will hurt you. No trouble will come near your tent.

¹¹ For He will tell His angels to care for you and keep you in all your ways.

¹² They will hold you up in their hands. So your foot will not hit against a stone. ¹³ You will walk upon the lion and the snake. You will crush under your feet the young lion and the snake.

¹⁴ Because he has loved Me, I will bring him out of trouble. I will set him in a safe place on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He will call upon Me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will take him out of trouble and honour him. ¹⁶ I will please him with a long life. And I will show him My saving power.

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

Reading: John 10:27-30 (NLV)

²⁷ My sheep recognize my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one shall snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else, so no one can kidnap them from me. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Talk or reflection: (See sermon notes and pre-recorded reflections)

Prayers: (See the prayer list and pre-recorded prayers)

Leader: *Into the dark places of our world*
Where people are frightened and hungry

All: God bring light, bring love

Leader: *Into places where people are violent*
Into places where people are fighting

All: God bring light, bring love

Leader: *Into the places where we feel unsafe*
Into situations that hurt us and scare us

All: God bring light, bring love

Leader: *We ask our prayers in Jesus' name*
and in the Holy Spirit's power

All: Amen

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

Reflection (see list of reflections including those written by survivors)

Song: The Safeguarding Hymn

Closing responses:

Leader: *God keep us safe in danger*

All: Give us courage and keep us loving

Leader: *God help us to speak the truth*

All: To stand by those who need our help

Leader: *God give us friends who love us*

All: Places and people that help us grow

Leader: *God send us on our way rejoicing*

All: And welcome us safely home

Blessing: An Iona blessing

*May God, who is present
in sunrise and nightfall,
and in the crossing of the sea,
guide your feet as you go.*

*May God, who is with you when you sit
and when you stand,
encompass you with love
and lead you by the hand.*

*May God, who knows your path
and the places where you rest,
be with you in your waiting
be your good news for sharing,
and lead you in the way
that is everlasting.*

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by abuse or has concerns, speak to the person responsible for Safeguarding at your organisation. Alternatively you can call the Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Helpline on **0303 003 11 11** to get caring, practical, expert advice and support.

To find out more about Safeguarding Sunday go to:
thirtyoneeight.org/SafeguardingSunday



©Thirtyone:eight for Safeguarding Sunday 2021

Charity No: 1004490 Scottish Charity No: SC040578