

A campaign by

**thirtyone:
eight**



thirtyone:eight.org

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



Welcome

Leader: *Welcome to this place on Safeguarding Sunday.
A day to give thanks for all those working for the good of all of us,
a day to hold in our hearts all those who have been hurt or harmed
by our actions or inaction, a day to look to the future and commit to
do our part to make and keep this a safer place.*

*Let us pray.
God, help us to hear your voice
through the babble of this busy world
where words are used to confuse, distract, manipulate,
sell illusion, buy power;
help us to be still and receptive to your healing,
encouraging, inspiring, enduring,
life-giving Word.
Amen*

Opening responses

Leader: *When we are happy,
when we are full of joy 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

*Dear God,
Help us to be a church that:
Loves, welcomes, protects.
Listens, learns, serves.
Repents, restores, transforms.
Values, cares, believes.
God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer.
Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.
In Jesus name.
Amen.*

Reading: Isaiah 41:10-13 (NLV)

*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
For I am the LORD your God
who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, Do not fear;
I will help you."*

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

Reading: Mark 12:28-31 (NLV)

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating.
Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him,
"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The
most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The
Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your
strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no commandment greater than these."*

Talk or reflection

Responsive prayer:

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

Prayers: (see list of written prayers)

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

Poem / message of hope

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.*

Song: (see list of suggested songs/hymns)

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**



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