

## **Fighting the Silence: Prayers for the Democratic Republic of Congo**

*Identify the Democratic Republic of Congo in the atlas or on the globe. Put out products from the DRC – maybe a cellphone, since the DRC has 80% of the world's reserves of Coltan, which is essential for cellphone manufacture. Or gold, or copper. You may also want to download one of the pictures of women from the DRC from the study site.*

### **Lighting the candle**

God bringing light and banishing fear,

We light this candle as a sign of our willingness to be your light in the world.

We remember before you the peoples of the Democratic Republic of Congo, their abundant land, their painful and war torn history. We bring before you the people whose story we have witnessed.

Give voice to those whose grief and pain is unspeakable; give compassion and strength to those who would hear in order to heal. Empower those who dare to speak the truth to power. Inspire those who challenge prejudice and envision new ways of relating. Nurture health and hope and peace in a land torn by violence and war. We ask it the name of Jesus, our brother and our friend.

Amen

### **Psalm 143**

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

**For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.**

I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah

**Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.**

Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.**

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.

**In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.**

**Reading: Luke 4:1-13**

### **The Temptation of Jesus**

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.'  
<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'  
<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", <sup>11</sup>and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."  
<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

### **A prayer for the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

God whose love is like a mother's warmth,  
God whose love is like a mother's strength,  
watch over the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo.  
May they know your presence as they face the challenges of their lives —  
war, rape, lack of education, patriarchy, and more.  
Grant them courage,  
strengthen their faith,  
renew their hope,  
this day and every day. We pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

*Written by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program - PC(USA)*

### **A prayer for the Democratic Republic of Congo**

*A 2010 Lenten Study compiled by the World Council of Churches, the World Student Christian Federation and the World YWCA <http://women.overcomingviolence.org>* 2

If the merciful God had not been on our side  
We could have been crushed,  
When most of the World powers came together to decide about the future of our  
country.  
Oh Merciful Lord,  
We thank you for making us kind people,  
We thank you Lord for giving us a country rich in natural resources.  
We beg you to convert people of bad heart and bad mind on the behalf of the  
Democratic Republic of Congo.  
We beg you to teach us all how to live friendly with other people.  
We beg you to help the Congolese people recover their humanity and taking over their  
responsibility on the Land you gave them.  
We beg you to help us be a mirror and a source of blessings for our neighbors.  
Let us become a pattern of peace and cooperation for the human being.  
Let us be respectful of human rights and creation.  
Help us benefit from the seeds within our Eden Garden and learn to share it carefully  
with other needy people.  
Our heavenly Father, make us peacemakers.  
Amen.

*Written by the Rev. Pierre Mpia Mopendo, International Peacemaker  
Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo*

### **Another prayer for the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Spirit of compassion, who hears the cries of all those who suffer from war, famine,  
and violence,

**Be with the women of the Congo whose bodies, lives, and families are torn apart  
by sexual violence.**

Spirit of love, who sees the brutality and mutilation that have become daily realities  
for the Congolese women,

**Bring healing to their bodies, their minds, and their spirits.**

Spirit of justice, who calls us to see, hear, and respond to the injustice and suffering  
caused by sexual violence,

*A 2010 Lenten Study compiled by the World Council of Churches, the World Student Christian  
Federation and the World YWCA <http://women.overcomingviolence.org>* 3

**Embolden us to speak out against those who use rape as a weapon of war.**

Spirit of oneness, who seeks to reconcile all that is broken in this world,

**Unify us as we work to bring an end to violence against women and girls around the globe.**

Amen.

*Written by Katey Zeh, Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing*

**Blessing**

May God the creator, who danced creation into being, dance with us.

May God the redeemer, who lived for justice, live in us.

May God the sustainer, who offers hope, offer hope through us.

Amen