

A Prayer for International Day of People with Disability

Written by Dr Kirk Patston (Our Place Christian Communities)
and Rev Bec Baines (Youthworks)

Our kind and present Creator and Redeemer,
On this International Day of People with Disability
we hear your ancient word in Deuteronomy 27:18:
“Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road.”

And we confess that we can overlook and forget people with disability.
We lament the cruel connections of disability with
poverty and homelessness,
With stigma and even violence, neglect and exploitation.
We pray for forgiveness as individuals and as citizens.
We pray for imagination and courage not to lead others astray
but to walk with them on a path of justice.

Paul reminds us in the letter to the Corinthians that the church is the
body of Christ, and each and every member is necessary.
We hear our Lord Jesus commanding us to invite the poor, the crippled,
the blind and the lame to our banquets.
Lord, forgive us if we have ever used disability as a reason to exclude
people from faith and service.
Make our communities vibrant with connection between people of all
abilities and give us grace to serve, weep and rejoice together.

Open ways for people with disability to respond in faith and partner
together to preach your word so that more people trust in you.

May the hospitable love and example of Jesus shape us today and
everyday

For we pray in his name,

Amen.

