

A TIME OF **PRAYER** FOR AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is the new number one on the Open Doors World Watch List. Throughout this year we are asking churches and individuals to make Afghanistan a focus of your prayers.

Below, you can find an outline which you can use during a time of prayer in church services.

It is based around the idea of silence, reflecting the way in which Afghan Christians have had their voices silenced and their freedom taken away. It uses statements from Afghan Christians. All names have been changed to protect their identities.

We also recommend showing a video during this time, if you are able. [You can watch or download the video here.](#)

You are, of course, free to adapt it to your circumstances and tradition and to use as little or as much as you wish. But please do join us in making Afghanistan a focus for your prayers.

- You can find more information to help you pray for Afghanistan [in our World Watch List section on the website.](#)
- For individuals, there is [a downloadable month of prayer](#) for Afghanistan which offers daily prayers.
- Later in the year we will be releasing further prayer resources for Afghanistan, including an outline for a prayer evening or vigil.

Thank you.



INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan has recently become the new number one on the Open Doors World Watch List – the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Christians in Afghanistan – like so many Christians around the world – are losing their freedom, their identity, their voice.

They are being silenced.

AN ACCOUNT FROM **SHARIFULLAH** IN AFGHANISTAN.

“Everything beautiful is considered ‘infidel,’” says Sharifullah. That is not his real name. His real name must be kept secret for his own protection. A traditional craftsman in Afghanistan, Sharifullah’s business came to a standstill when the Taliban returned to power. He says:

“The Taliban want their ideology reflected everywhere, and so all signs of colour, life and hope have been removed.

“The Taliban are killing our souls and spirits.

“They are killing the souls of our children by taking all that is beautiful away from them.”

Sharifullah has good reason to fear the Taliban: he and his wife are secret Christians.

A TIME OF **SILENCE**

Let us spend some time in silence, remembering Christians, not just in Afghanistan, but all around the world, who have to keep hidden, who have to keep silent.

Imagine never being allowed to meet together like this.

Imagine never being able to tell anyone that you are a Christian.

Imagine not being allowed a voice.

A time of silence.

VIDEO: ZABI'S STORY.

To exit the time of silence, if possible show [a video here featuring Zabi, from Afghanistan](#). Her words show the necessity of keeping hidden and what happens when Christians are discovered.



CLOSING

Despite all that they are going through, Afghan Christians are determined to keep the good news alive.

Sharifullah says: “We will never let hope be silenced... We will make sure the world hears the gospel through every breath we take. And we know you will help us by living the gospel, using your freedom and sharing Jesus with those who have come to your neighbourhoods. Please continue to stand with us.”

A PRAYER FOR THE **SILENCED**

Lord Jesus,

You know what it is to face injustice and hate,

To hide from those who would attack You,

And to keep silent in front of Your accusers.

Be with Your followers in Afghanistan,

and with all in the world who must keep hidden.

Protect them from discovery,

Reassure them that their lives are hidden in You.

May we speak up for those who have no voice,

And use our freedom to provide for those in need.

Let us not be silent, Lord.

In Your name we pray,

Amen