Disability Awareness Sunday 2025 – Made in God's Image 'Together In Prayer' Resource with Through the Roof



Thank you for "catching the vision" for continuous prayer by joining with us to support Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS).

On the Through the Roof (TTR) website you'll find information on DAS at https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/

This is our first prayer guide offered alongside Through The Roof's Disability Awareness Sunday materials.

We trust you will be blessed in prayer and want to carry some of the prayer ideas forward into your daily life.

Every prayer makes a difference!

You may like to note your thoughts and responses during your prayer time and consider giving feedback on your experience so we can develop our prayer resources for future Disability Awareness Sundays.

You can also email any feedback to annette@throughtheroof.org

TTR 'Together In Prayer' Resource

This guide of short and longer prayers promotes the work of Through the Roof and the Disability Awareness Sunday focus 'Made in God's Image.'

'Together in Prayer'

We are all 'wonderfully made in God's image.' We value each other, together we celebrate the positive and aim for change in the midst of challenges. **Every prayer makes a difference!**

Here are three short prayers, with key prayer points for DAS 2025:

- We pray for churches and people taking part in Disability Awareness Sunday services, that God will bless and encourage congregations to celebrate and fully include disabled people.
- We pray for the Biblical message to be shared that we are all 'Made in God's Image.' The theme for Disability Awareness Sunday 2025.
- We pray for Christians to reach out and include disabled people. For churches to actively work towards disability inclusion – nominating a <u>Roofbreaker</u> or disability champion in their church.

Additional prayers:

- Listen to or sing a favourite song focusing on your 'Identity in Christ': pause, soak in the words, then pray thanking God for His truth that builds up your life and faith.
- God is always near: reflect on a time when you felt very close to God. Write Him a letter, telling Him in prayer why that was so special.
- Give thanks to God for His goodness: look at or draw a tree, see
 the branches as His characteristics, the leaves / fruit show God
 dwells in our hearts and helps us make Him known to others.
 Printable template: https://www.firstpalette.com/pdf/tree.pdf

We are all made in God's image, each with a unique story, with God's promises and provision to sustain us, with gifts and skills to enjoy and use to help other people:

If you enjoy reading scripture you might like to read Psalm 139, Pause, reflect, and respond in prayer giving thanks for being 'wonderfully made in God's image', fully known, helped by the Holy Spirit all our days, 24-7!

Think about the people who support you with your daily activities, and Christian faith: your family, carers, friends, the services you use, a place of belonging (TTR / Together At home or church fellowship). Pray, giving thanks to God for these people, bless someone by writing a thank you note or sending a word of encouragement (text / email).

Thinking about TTR's aim to 'Transform Lives through Jesus with Disabled People' and Roofbreaker disability champions helping to enable Access, Belonging, Commission for disabled people in churches and at Christian activities, let's reflect and pray:

Access: Give thanks that God understands and is with us in our challenges. Pray for all people who build and help adapt environments to provide equal access to all people, including people with disabilities.

Belonging: Jesus is our example; He 'came among' all people. We give thanks for TTR's work and others creating places of welcome, where we are seen and heard, are included and equipped for God's service. Let's choose to see the good in other people and get along with one other.

Commissioning: We are chosen as God's ambassadors, with gifts and skills to help other people, and serve God by making disciples. Ask God for opportunities to bless other people; He hears prayers, knows your heart and has the best plans and purposes for you.

On the next few pages there are inspiring stories and prayers prepared by Emily Owen and other people involved in Through the Roof. There are reflections and prayer ideas to use in this prayer time or to take with you for another time.

Inspiring stories and prayers prepared by Emily Owen and other people by involved in Through the Roof:

Emily Owen produced the materials of this year's DAS on the theme 'Made in God's image.' Her video, prepared for use in the Disability Awareness Sunday services in 2025, is available. You can access it here via YouTube: https://youtu.be/f5ntiZ_gjvU with captions, or with a full transcript (on SharePoint) from Through the Roof.

A prayer from Becky Clegg

Becky is a Roofbreaker who has cerebral palsy, mainly affecting speech and co-ordination. She uses a power-chair or rollator walker to get around outdoors. You can hear from Becky here:

UCB Disability Diary "audio clip": https://youtu.be/N58kiK374Gs

This is Becky's prayer:

Heavenly Father, our wonderful Creator,

Thank you for drawing us to yourself,

Making us, shaping us, moulding us into your perfect plan.

Help us to fix our eyes on you, made in your image,

And to not forget that we're your handiwork,

Dearly loved and cherished by you.

Lord, help us to not get distracted by worldly pursuits or expectations.

But to rejoice and rest in your presence, assured of your guidance.

Being ourselves is enough, for that is who you made us to be. Amen

Pause ... Reflect on a visual phrase from Becky's prayer.

Take time to give thanks to God, undistracted, talk to Him write or draw...

A prayer from Sarah Best – "Made in God's Image."

Sarah has Down's Syndrome and severe hearing loss. Sarah is Chief Candle Snuffer at her church, as well as reading Bible lessons and helping with washing up.

You can read more of Sarah's story here:

https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-diaries-livestransformed-by-church-disability-inclusion/disability-diaries-part-1-sarahsnuffs-out-exclusion-in-her-church/ Thank you, God, for people –
who are tall or small,
who are fast or slow,
who like exercise or just like sitting,
who like different styles of music,
who have different hobbies,
who want to learn, and others who explain,
who we get along with, and others who we don't.

Everyone is made in your image.

and we are all different.

Everything you make is good including us.

Help us to get along with each other and
look for the good in everyone just like you do. Amen

Pause... Reflect on each of the phrases:

"Everyone is made in your image."

"Everything you make is good, including us."

Celebrate with Sarah people of diversity God has made in His image.

Pray that having received God's goodness, we will be people of joy and peace to others around us.

A prayer from Revd Chich Hewitt

Chich is a retired Anglican priest (originally from South Africa) who lost his eyesight through a rare genetic condition. He is registered blind, with some peripheral vision, and uses technology for leading worship. Wondrous God

You discern our deepest thoughts.
and are acquainted with all our ways;
yet you love us in our brokenness.
with a love we cannot imagine.

May we never judge others by outer appearance for your great love looks on the heart

May we not turn from the one with no form or majesty despised and rejected and held of no account.

For He bears our infirmities and carries our diseases, in His presence we find wholeness as we enter into his enfolding love.

O Trinity of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we love you, for you first loved us. Amen

Pause ... enjoy some time in God's presence.

Reflect on Chich's prayer, a phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting to you.

Allow God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to minister to you and respond to His loving kindness prayerfully.

And next: Confident of God's goodness to us, we can 'Be the answer to someone else's prayers' with acts of loving kindness.

Giving thanks for contributors to the Disability Awareness Sunday 'Made in God's Image' materials and this 'Together In Prayer' guide including Emily Owen, TTR Together At Home members, the TTR team and our partnership with 24-7.com. God bless you all.