

“To The Survivors Among Us” by Rev Moira Finley, February 2022

This is a responsive prayer, with the congregation joining in for the last lines, some of the most important words that survivors can hear – we believe you, and we are here with you. Survivors already doubt themselves, we don’t need the judgement that has come so often from the victim blaming and shaming in our society, and in our churches. The church needs to speak up, to say and mean these words, to truly be in solidarity with survivors.

To the survivors among us  
we are sorry for what you experienced,  
we are honored  
that you are here with us, and  
**we believe you.**

If your experience was  
last week,  
last year,  
or decades ago,  
**we believe you.**

If you told someone when it happened,  
or kept it to yourself,  
or can barely speak of what you lived through,  
**we believe you.**

If you reported it to authorities,  
or you didn’t,  
or you couldn’t,  
or you might yet,  
or you can’t,  
**we believe you.**

If you knew your assailant,  
were in a relationship with them,  
or if they were a stranger,  
**we believe you.**

If you were out on a date,  
or in your own home,  
remember every detail,  
or it's all a blur,  
were a senior,  
a child,  
or somewhere in between,  
**we believe you.**

If you fought back,  
or you didn't,  
you did what you needed  
to do to survive, and  
**we believe you.**

If you need us to listen,  
or sit with you in the silence,  
or hold you while you cry,  
or give you space to scream,  
**we are here with you.**

If you are afraid,  
or ashamed,  
scared of what might happen  
if the details are known,  
**we are here with you.**

If you are wondering  
if it was all your fault,  
if you're damaged goods,  
if boys and men can really be victims,  
**we are here with you.**

If you are unsure  
if God could still love you,  
if you have a place in the church,  
if your story matters here,  
if there's enough grace for someone like you  
**we are here with you.**

To the survivors among us  
we are sorry for what you experienced,  
we are honored  
that you are here with us, and  
**we believe you.**