

# A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

from the Right Rev Susan Brown, Moderator

You who led your people through the wilderness  
to the promised land,  
who carried the faithful through the throes of  
Good Friday  
to the joy of Easter Day:  
Hear us as we pray for your people today,  
in this land  
and at this time...

When we fear what lies ahead,  
when we feel overwhelmed by the task  
of pointing people  
to your love  
and mercy:  
Remind us that you are a living God,  
still at work,  
still planning and promising...

When our heads go down  
and our shoulders droop:  
Lift our eyes  
that they may look into yours  
and see there a love  
that will not  
ever  
let us go.

AMEN

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The Church of Scotland

## TOGETHER WE PRAY

**Themes and Prayers for a National Day of Prayer**  
3 November 2018

As we gather to pray as the Church of Scotland, on or around 3 November 2018, you may wish to pray for:

- discernment to hear where the Spirit of God is leading
- courage to trust God where risks require to be taken
- the gift of encouragement, and to give thanks for the many gifts that God has given to us
- boldness to try new things which must begin and to let go of those things that are no longer working
- skills of listening, consultation and decision making within the life of the Church.

For further resources on prayer visit:  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray)

## PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS

You may like to pray for your own congregation and for neighbouring congregations - those which are part of the Church of Scotland and those belonging to other denominations.

### Dear God

We pray for our congregation.  
May worship be truthful,  
passionate  
and honouring to you.  
Whether in ancient hymns or  
new songs,  
may we unite in praise  
and offer our whole lives  
as worship to you.

In our life together may we  
encourage where there is  
struggle,  
celebrate where there is joy,  
grow together in our  
understanding of the Good  
News,  
be unafraid to challenge,  
honest enough to confess our  
mistakes  
and may we remain hopeful  
as we dream dreams.

In our mission  
make us bold and adventurous.  
In our weakness  
may we know your strength.  
May we have the great joy  
of seeing others come to faith  
in you.  
May we be resilient  
in our pursuit of justice  
and have the humility to share  
in the work with others.

May our congregation be a place  
where the gifts of many are  
united  
in common purpose,  
where all are allowed to flourish  
and be valued,  
where together  
we are built into a dwelling place  
for the Holy Spirit,  
as together we grow in love.

AMEN

### Pray For:

- places where there is growth – that this will be encouraged and lessons shared
- places where new initiatives must be tried – for risk-takers and pioneers
- places where there is fragility and loss – for God to be present in our vulnerability
- places where difficult decisions may need to be made.

## PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

You may wish to pray for your communities and give thanks for the gifts that have been given to them.

### Dear God

We pray for our communities:  
the people we are called to love,  
the people amongst whom we  
work;  
us, together, within our  
communities;  
every one known to you and  
loved by you.

Grant us discernment  
that we might know how to  
serve  
in practical and spiritual ways,  
that we might more fully  
understand  
the lives of others,  
that we might embody the love  
of God  
in everything we do  
as part of these communities.

Grant us courage  
to stand with those on the  
margins,  
to challenge inequalities,

to fight injustice  
and to be a light in the darkness.

Grant us humility,  
to recognise the poverty of  
our understanding  
and the depth of your wisdom,  
to acknowledge the riches of  
your grace  
and your endless desire to  
renew,  
as today, your presence renews  
our lives.

May our community be a place  
where the gifts of many are  
united  
in common purpose,  
where all are allowed to flourish  
and be valued,  
where together  
we are built into a dwelling place  
for the Holy Spirit,  
as together we grow in love.

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### Pray For:

- local schools – Nursery, Primary and Secondary, Colleges and Universities, for pupils, students and staff
- local healthcare practices, hospitals and care homes
- leaders – Councillors, community leaders, MPs and MSPs
- change – especially where there are inequalities to be challenged, where the most vulnerable must find a home.

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

You may wish to pray for the wider church. The Church of Scotland has leadership which is congregational (Kirk Sessions), regional (Presbyteries) and national (General Assembly, Councils and Committees). Made up of ministers, elders, members and staff, these bodies work to support the local church in all the different facets of its life.

### Dear God

We pray for our Church:  
many parts yet one body  
under the authority of Jesus  
Christ.  
From north to south, east to  
west,  
help us build your Kingdom,  
to see lives transformed.

May our Presbyteries be places  
of inspiration, support and  
encouragement.  
Give to them a vision  
for what church could be.  
Help them to see the possibilities  
and  
to have the courage to reach out  
in faith.  
When faced with difficult  
decisions  
grant them wisdom and grace.

May our councils and  
committees  
seek to support congregations  
and presbyteries. With dedicated  
staff and enthusiastic volunteers  
may they be a force for good  
throughout our land.

May the Church of Scotland be  
a place  
where the gifts of many are  
united  
in common purpose,  
where all are allowed to flourish  
and be valued,  
where together  
we are built into a dwelling place  
for the Holy Spirit,  
as together we grow in love.

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### Pray for:

- the regional church where 46 Presbyteries help the church to flourish locally
- the work of councils and committees who implement decisions of the General Assembly
- the General Assembly that it might discern where God is leading us
- all the people who make up these bodies
- the Church of Scotland's engagement with the world of politics and issues of justice
- the Council of Assembly's work with others to produce a Radical Action Plan. Please pray for this challenging work. Pray for all to hear God and to respond with action.