



The Church of Scotland

TOGETHER **WE PRAY**

Themes and Prayers

**A national day of prayer
for the Church of Scotland**
Saturday 3 November 2018



TOGETHER WE PRAY

As we gather to pray as the Church of Scotland, on or around 3 November 2018, here are some prayers and ideas that may help us focus on our Church and our Nation.

In Scotland and beyond, the Church plays a vital role within our communities. The Church of Scotland has many gifts. It has over 300,000 official members in addition to many others who take part in the life of the Church. Equally, we face many challenges if we are to become the Church which Jesus Christ calls us to become.

As we gather 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.



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



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.

AMEN

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.

Dear God

Grant us your vision
to see as you see,
to always hope,
to never let go
and to strive for your kingdom.

Inspire us toward greater things
for you are a God of the impossible.
Give us courage and confidence,
compassion and care
to be the Church
you have called us to be.

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For further resources on prayer visit:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray

TOGETHER **WE** PRAY

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