

Together We Pray with the Prophets

Pray Now is a collection of prayers, meditations and blessings produced by The Church of Scotland every year. Here, as part of the 2018 Together We Pray initiative we offer you a special sneak preview of Pray Now's soon-to-be published volume, also called *Together We Pray*.

Together We Pray is a national initiative calling the Church of Scotland to join together in prayer. The following excerpt can be used to join in Together We Pray whether you are praying individually, with family or in a small group, with a friend, in a pastoral care situation, a meeting or worship gathering.

This excerpt is specifically taken from the section *Together we pray with the Prophets*.

'Let it be known this day'

'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding.'

1 Kings 18:36

Meditation

It wasn't in the preaching or the power or the prideful victory.
It wasn't in the warring words or the targeted threats
or the full-on fear.
It wasn't in the righteous certainty or the bold, brash clatter.
It was in the fragile 'I'm sorry', in the proffered peace.

It was in the waiting and the walking,
the deep listening and the tumultuous travel
from heavily defended corners to common ground.
It was in the journey, the justice, the entwined hands,
and the outstretched arms and the wide-open welcome.
It was in the stillness and the soft embrace,
the sheer silence and the standing together in it.

It was and is and will be in longed-for love,
in the Divine's ardent prayer for peace,

and in humanity's heart and ear,
swept up in the all-consuming fire of justice,
and in that still small voice
that calls us towards each other.

Morning Prayer

In the hectic churn of day to day,
we rarely reflect on where we've been,
much less take a breath at break of day
to imagine where we want to go.
Breathe now,
and let the Divine design a day with you:

May it be known that on this day
I stole time with my lover;
I played with the children
and became one of them for a glorious moment;
I found a new friend by slowing down with a stranger;
and cherished those old comfortable friends
who are familiar as cosy furniture.

Let it be known this day
because it is shown in how I live this day.

AMEN

Evening Prayer

In the embers of evening,
heart back to still,
mind back to calm,
body, lay me down tonight.

Spirit, restless and wild for justice;
Spirit, passionate for peace;
Spirit, ceaselessly searching for unity;
keep me ever awake to the world You dream,

as I lay me down this night.

AMEN

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 18:36-41	'Let it be known this day'
Amos 5:21-24	Justice and righteousness

Blessing

Blessed be the strident and the still.
Blessed be the protest and the peace.
Blessed be the voice and the vacuum.
Blessed be all the twists and turnings that bring us home to You.
AMEN