



The Church of Scotland

TOGETHER WE PRAY



**A national day of prayer
for the Church of Scotland
Saturday 25th November**

TOGETHER WE PRAY

This year, the General Assembly asked the Church to focus on prayer and particularly to pray as we think about each other, our communities and for the future of the Church of Scotland as it responds and adapts to the changing landscapes of the world today.

Many of you are involved in worshipping communities that pray together at different times and in different ways. This national day of prayer allows us to have a special focus where we can join together in prayer across the country.

On the 25th November (and throughout the coming weeks and months) we hope you will gather together to pray as the Church for the work we are involved in, to pray for the parishes, presbyteries and communities that we are part of and seek God's guidance for the way ahead as the Church of Scotland.

We encourage you to meet on this day as small groups, congregations or even as Presbyteries.

Come, Holy Spirit

open to us the treasures of Thy wisdom

feed the hungry, ransom our prisoners,

raise up the sick, comfort the faint-hearted.



Glasgow



Dundee



Inverness



Edinburgh

What does it look like to come together as the Church of Scotland as we pray about the priorities for the future?

What and who might we pray for?

- Pray for the decision makers
- Pray for the dreamers and the visionaries
- Pray for the prophets and the peace makers
- Pray for the listeners and the talkers
- Pray for the thinkers and the doers
- Pray for the shouters and the whisperers
- Pray for young and the old
- Pray for the rural and the urban communities

As we pray for the future work of the Church, we will be *On the Road* in four locations across Scotland, listening to your views.

Let us ask God to speak and as we try to catch the wind of God's Spirit, we might begin to pray about what we know:

- Our communities and where we see God moving
- Our friends, families, neighbours and even those we don't know yet

As we pray together as the church we hope:

- To see the growth of vibrant worshipping communities
- To see communities flourish
- To see people engaged fully in social, economic and political change for the benefit of all and for the growing of God's Kingdom

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

In your pack, you will find a poster and invitations for the day. We recommend putting these up around your church or advertising on your website or social media.

Try putting a poster up in your local area, perhaps the library, the community centre or the supermarket.

If you need more, you can find printable copies on our website:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray



PREPARING FOR THE DAY

It is important to think about how you will gather together.

Regular Prayer Meeting

Could this be part of something you are already doing?

Eating Together

Could you host a prayer breakfast, lunch or dinner?

Be Creative

What about holding an event for people of all ages and stages? Have you ever run a 24/7 prayer room? Could you set up prayer stations that bring in arts and crafts, movement or lighting candles?

Be Active

Why not head out to the local community on a prayer walk?

If you are planning this event with others, it may be helpful to consider:

- What are we praying for?
- How shall we pray together?
- What makes me want to pray?
- What barriers stop me praying?
- What can I be listening for/looking for?

You may wish to consider using the Conversations in Worship resource as you prepare for the day. This series of conversations help us to share our stories about how we experience and encounter God. The simple and user - friendly methodology allows anyone - whether worship leader, minister, group leader or everyday person in the pew, to create an environment of sharing and listening without judging. This could be an ideal way of exploring how you could gather together to pray in creative and exciting ways.

HOW WE PRAY

There isn't a one size fits all way of praying, but we can help people to shape their prayers, consider the rhythm of their prayer lives and ask people to come together with a special focus uniting us with one another in prayer.

Spending some time in quiet reflection before praying together might help us hear from God and be prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Be still and Know that I am God

Psalm 46:10

You may feel that it is important to include elements of confession as part of your day of prayer. You could create a space for personal confession, or hold a space within the event for corporate confession, especially if there are areas you feel the Church needs to seek forgiveness.

PRAYER **FOR** THE CHURCH

God of our past, present and future,
we seek direction
for the life of our Church and for ourselves,
and remember
that all concerns and anxieties
should be placed within Your hand.
Where we have heard Your voice
may we step into the future
that appears
with all the uncertainties and unknowns
to be explored.
Keep our eyes open to places of need,
and our ears open to the call
to new ways of being Your people.
Amen

A printable copy of this prayer can be found in the Together We Pray section of the website

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray

We recommend you print a copy for each participant.

WHAT NEXT?

You've spent some time praying, so what's next?

We would love to hear from you.
Get in touch with what you were praying about.

togetherwepay@churchofscotland.org.uk

or comment on our prayer wall

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepay

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www.churchofscotland.org.uk