

Together We Pray with Outsiders

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 Outsiders*.

Yearning for God

Anna ... never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
Luke 2:36-37

Meditation

A servant with a burning hope.
Withdrawn to the solitary place,
the place of sanctuary,
the holy place.
Yearning for God day and night,
anchored and rooted in the house of prayer,
filled with reverent awe,
fasting and praying without ceasing.

Little noticed on the margins,
insignificant.
A shadow among others,
lowly,
filled with humility and grace.
Faithfully waiting, trusting, anticipating.
Patiently looking forward
with perseverance in faith.

Life grounded in the promises of God.

Then the moment.

Welcoming the revelation of God.

The awe and wonder, delighting in Him – the Messiah.

The unspeakable joy,
overflowing.

Telling of the Child who is freedom!

Morning Prayer

With my hands cupped,

I wait to receive all You will grant me in this day.

Give me Yourself for You are all I need.

With hands reaching up and open

to the coming of Your presence,

allow me to see glimpses of where You are present in this day.

With hands extended and palms open,

enable me to accept in love and with grace

all that unfolds today.

With hands ready to work, Lord,

I am willing to serve You,

attending to what You will and purpose.

In my yearning, keep my heart steadfast in You.

AMEN

Evening Prayer

I offer up to You Lord,

the thankfulness for all I have received in this day,

the joy of glimpses of where You have been present,

the cherishing of all that unfolded.

My deep yearning for You

has not strayed.
I remain Yours.
Keep watch over me in the night.

AMEN

Scripture Readings

Luke 2:36-38	Yearning for God
Hebrews 12:1-3	Run the race with perseverance

Blessing

Await the coming of God to you.
Allow the revelation of God to sustain you.
Accept the fullness of God's glory upon you.
Attend to God's presence with hope and joy.

AMEN