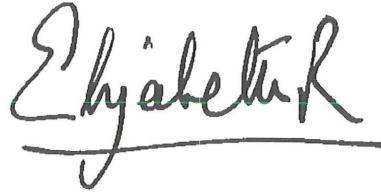


FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S APPROBATION  
AND SIGNATURE IF APPROVED

Your Majesty's letter to the General Assembly  
Of the Church of Scotland to be read at the opening  
Of the online General Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

*Alba Storer*  
24 September 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Right Reverend and Well Beloved, We Greet You Well.

We gladly renew on this Occasion Our pledge to preserve and uphold the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. In doing so, We acknowledge, with Gratitude to Almighty God, the Church's steadfast witness to the Christian faith and its services to our people in Scotland and in many lands overseas.

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged every aspect of our common life and has caused much suffering and heartbreak.

We greatly admire the ways in which the Church of Scotland has responded to these difficult days. Care has been offered to the bereaved whose grieving has been constricted by restrictions on funerals while churches have kept open their doors to feed the poor and offer safe space to the children of key workers. Many congregations have taken their worship on-line and touched the lives of people who did not in normal times attend church services. The Kirk's care workers have remained faithful in sustaining the services upon which so many older people and their families depend.

We know that the dangers posed by the coronavirus are not yet over and we commend the Church as she seeks ways in which she can be true to her calling in the present while looking to the future. We wish those who lead the Church wisdom and foresight at this pivotal point in her history and may your faith and courage be strengthened during the days ahead and through the times to come.

And so, praying that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

in the sixty-ninth year of Our Reign.

BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND

*Allegra Spina*  
*29 September 2020*