



Together We Pray, Together We Care



World Day of Prayer



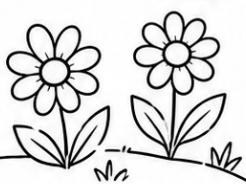
**Children and adults around the world
praying and caring together.**

Programme

for children aged 4-7



**World Day
of Prayer
SCOTLAND**



Opening Circle

Welcome and the World Day of Prayer Story

[Children sit in a circle with a world map or globe in the centre.]

Leader:

Welcome! Today we are doing something really special that children have been doing for 100 years!

A long, long time ago, some women saw that people around the world needed help. They began a special day when people in many different places would pray together.

Today, children and adults in around 140 countries are praying together. Some children speak different languages. Some live in busy cities and some live in villages. Some have lots of things and some have very little. We may be different from one another, but God loves every child, everywhere.

Does anyone know which country we live in?

Let us see if we can find it on the map.

[Invite the children to find their country on the map/globe.]

We are one of around 140 countries that pray together on the same day each year: the first Friday in March. But World Day of Prayer does not have to be only one day. We can pray together throughout the year. When we remember other people in our prayers, we also remember to care about them. Our prayers help us to become caring people.

Repeat after me:

**When we pray together,
we care together!**

Song

He's got the whole wide world in his hands.
He's got the whole wide world in his hands.
He's got the whole wide world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the little children in his hands. x4

He's got everybody here in his hands x4

Opening Prayer

Now let us pray together.

You can repeat each line after me so that we all pray the same words together.

Dear God, thank you for the beautiful world in which we live. Thank you for children and adults in every part of the world. Thank you that we can learn about one another. Help us to pray together, care together and share your love together. Amen.

Story Time

Hannah and Mary: Two Women Who Prayed

Now it is time for a story.

A long time ago, there was a woman named Hannah. Hannah was very sad. She longed for a child, but she did not have one. She waited for a very long time. Hannah felt lonely and upset, but she knew that she could talk to God. Hannah told God everything that was in her heart. God listened to Hannah, stayed with her and gave her hope. In time, Hannah's life changed, and she was filled with joy. Hannah sang a song of thanks to God.

Repeat after me:

**God has filled my heart with joy.
I am glad because you are with me.
There is no one like you.**

Have you ever felt sad because you wanted something that you did not have?

[Allow time for brief responses.]

What did Hannah do when she was very sad? Yes, Hannah prayed. When we are sad, worried or disappointed, we can talk to God too. God listens to us, loves us and stays with us. God also gives us people who can listen to us and help us.

Many years later, there was another woman named Mary. Mary was a young woman, perhaps the same age as some of your older brothers, sisters or cousins.

Do any of you know someone who is a teenager?

[Allow time for responses.]

Mary received some very surprising news. She was going to have a baby. Mary may have felt excited, but she may also have felt worried and uncertain.

She did not want to be alone, so she went to visit her relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth was older than Mary, and Mary felt safe with her. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby and understood that Mary's life was changing. Being with Elizabeth helped Mary feel stronger. Elizabeth listened to Mary, welcomed her and shared her joy. God often helps us through people who love us. When we are worried or afraid, we can speak to someone we trust. That person might be a parent, grandparent, carer, teacher, family member or friend. Just like Hannah, Mary sang a song too.

Repeat after me:

My soul praises God.

My heart is happy because God cares for me.

God helps people who need help.

Both Hannah and Mary learnt that God listens when we pray. Both Hannah and Mary learnt that God cares deeply about us. Mary also discovered that being with Elizabeth helped her feel stronger.

Together, Mary and Elizabeth were able to share their hopes, worries and joy.

This is why it is so special when we pray with children and adults from around the world.

[The leader lifts the globe and invites the children to gather around it and touch it gently together.]

Look how many hands are touching our world. Imagine children in many different countries praying today. Even though we have never met them, we belong to one human family.

Repeat after me:
**Together we pray,
together we care!**

Song

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Activity Time

Craft: Paper Cup Seed Planter

[Give each child a paper cup to decorate.]

You can decorate your cup with colours, pictures or stickers from different countries.

Use your finger to make a small hole in the compost.
Place a seed inside and gently cover it with compost.
Add a little water.

You can take your planter home with you.

Seeds do not grow straight away. We have to wait.
They need water, light, warmth and someone to care for them.
Hannah also had to wait for a long time.
Waiting can be difficult, but while we wait, we can still hope,
pray and care.

Our prayers are a little like seeds. They remind us to keep caring, helping, sharing and being kind. When we pray together and act with love, beautiful things can grow in the world.

Movement Activity: Helping Each Other Up

Now let us stand up for a movement activity.

Do you remember what Mary did when she felt worried and uncertain? Yes, she went to visit Elizabeth.

Elizabeth welcomed Mary and helped her feel stronger.

We sometimes say that a kind person “lifts us up”.

That does not always mean lifting someone into the air. It can mean helping them feel stronger, happier or less alone.

Let us divide into pairs.

One person can sit down or crouch carefully.

The other person can gently offer both hands.

Together, help your partner stand up safely.

As they stand, everyone says:

We help each other.

Now swap over.

[Repeat with the other child sitting or crouching.]

When we help someone, listen to them or stay beside them, we show that we care. Just as Elizabeth helped Mary feel stronger, we can help one another too.

Repeat after me:

**Together we pray,
together we care for one another!**

Game: Jumping for Joy

Now it is time for a game called **Jumping for Joy**.

Hannah and Mary both sang joyful songs.

They were so happy that perhaps they even jumped for joy!

We are going to jump for joy together.

When I say something we are thankful for, jump and shout:

Thank you, God!

Leader: When Hannah found hope—

Children: **Thank you, God!**

Leader: When Mary found a safe person to talk to—
Children: **Thank you, God!**
Leader: When someone helps us—
Children: **Thank you, God!**
Leader: When we help someone else—
Children: **Thank you, God!**
Leader: For children all around the world—
Children: **Thank you, God!**
Leader: For everyone who prays and cares together—
Children: **Thank you, God!**

Closing Prayer

Now it is time for our closing prayer.
Repeat each line after me and join in with the actions.

God who lifts us when we are down

[start low and reach up high]

Thank you for loving every child.

[hug yourself]

Help us to pray together.

[fold hands together]

Help us to care together.

[place hands over heart]

Help us to share together.

[stretch hands outwards]

Thank you for children around the world.

[stretch arms wide]

Thank you for all who are praying with us today.

[fold hands together]

Help us to be kind,

[smile at someone]

brave,

[stand tall]

loving

[place hands over heart]

and full of joy.

[raise arms]

Amen!

[jump together]

Song

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Blessing

Leader: Repeat after me

May God bless our hands to help others.

May God bless our hearts to love others.

May God bless our words to bring kindness.

May God bless us all today and always. Amen.

This Programme was written by the World Day of Prayer
International Committee (WDPIC) and adapted by the Scottish
WDP Committee