



Together We Pray, Together We Care

World Day of Prayer



Praying together. Caring together.
Working for peace and justice.

Programme
for children aged 8-12



World Day
of Prayer
SCOTLAND

Opening Circle

Global Prayer Connection

[[Begin with the children gathering around a world map/globe showing countries that take part in World Day of Prayer.]]

Leader: Let us see whether you can find some countries on the map. Well done!

Just as we are gathering here today, children and adults in countries around the world are also gathering to pray. Some will speak different languages. Some will worship in different ways. Some will live in busy cities, while others will live in villages or rural communities. Even though we live in different places, we are connected through prayer.

World Day of Prayer Centenary Learning Moment

In 1927, one hundred years ago, women from different churches decided to pray together on the same day. What is amazing is that this worldwide movement has continued ever since. It has continued because people believe that prayer can bring us closer to God and closer to one another.

Today, we celebrate one hundred years of:
Together We Pray, Together We Care.

God can help small beginnings grow into something wonderful when people work 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.

Dear God,

Thank you for the beautiful world you have created.

Thank you for people of different colours and ethnicities, people who speak different languages, people from different cultures and people with different abilities.

Although we are different in many ways, every person is created and held in your love.

Help us to learn from one another.

Help us to pray together.

Help us to care together. Amen.

Scripture Stories

Two Women, Two Prayers

Hannah's Story 1 Samuel 1–2

A long time ago, there was a woman named Hannah. Hannah carried a deep sadness in her heart. She longed for a child, but she did not have one. She prayed and hoped for many years, but nothing seemed to change. Even when Hannah felt that no one understood her, she continued to talk honestly to God. One day, she went to the temple, a place where people came to worship and pray. There, Hannah poured out her heart. She told God everything she was feeling: her sadness, her disappointment, her hopes and her dreams.

God listened to Hannah, stayed with her and gave her hope.

In time, Hannah had a baby boy named Samuel.

Hannah was filled with joy and sang a song of thanks to God.

Let us say part of her song together:

God has filled my heart with joy.

I am glad because you have helped me.

There is no one like you, God.

Hannah's story reminds us that we can be honest with God. We can pray when we are joyful, but we can also pray when we are sad, angry, disappointed or confused. Prayer does not mean that we will always receive exactly what we ask for. Prayer means that we can share what is in our hearts and trust that God listens, loves us and stays with us.

Mary and Elizabeth's Story

Luke 1:39–55

Many years later, another young woman named Mary also sang a prayer to God. Mary was probably a teenager, perhaps around thirteen to sixteen years old. She may not have been much older than some of you. One day, Mary received surprising and confusing news. She was going to have a baby, and this child would have a special part to play in God's story. Mary did not know what would happen next. She probably had many questions and may have felt frightened or uncertain.

So Mary went to visit an older relative she trusted: Elizabeth. Elizabeth welcomed Mary with joy and kindness. She listened to Mary and offered her a safe place to stay. Being with Elizabeth helped Mary feel stronger. Mary was reminded that she was not alone and that God was with her, even when the future was uncertain.

Mary then sang a song full of praise, hope and courage:

Let us say part of her song together:

My soul praises God.

My heart is joyful because God cares for me.

God helps people who need help.

Hannah and Mary lived hundreds of years apart, but their stories are connected. Both trusted God when life was difficult. Both spoke honestly about what was happening in their lives. Both sang songs of joy and hope.

Their prayers also speak about a God who cares deeply about people who are poor, hungry, powerless or treated unfairly. Hannah and Mary remind us that prayer is not only about asking God for things. Prayer is also about sharing our hearts, listening for God and allowing prayer to change the way we treat other people.

Mary's story also reminds us how important it is to find people we trust. God often cares for us through friendships, families,

communities and honest conversations. That is one reason why we pray together. We do not pray only as individuals. We pray with people around the world. When we pray together, we remind one another that nobody is alone.

Let us say together:

Together we pray.

Together we care.

Discussion Questions

- Mary went to Elizabeth when she needed support. Who can you speak to when you need help, advice or someone to listen?
- Both Hannah's and Mary's prayers speak about God helping people who are brought low or treated as unimportant. Who might those people be in our world today?
- Mary and Elizabeth felt stronger because they were together. When have you felt stronger because other people supported you?
- Why do you think it can help to tell God honestly when we feel sad, angry or confused?
- How can praying for someone encourage us to care for them in practical ways?

Activity Time

Craft: Peace Pole Creation

Write the word **peace** in at least one language on your pole and decorate it with symbols of peace, friendship, hope or prayer.

Reflection on the Peace Poles

Hannah and Mary both prayed to God and trusted that God was listening. Hannah waited a long time and did not know how her story would unfold. Mary said yes to a difficult and uncertain future. Both stories remind us that peace does not suddenly appear without effort. Peace grows when people keep hoping, listening, speaking honestly and caring for one another.

These peace poles are signs of that hope. Whenever someone sees them, they can remember that we are called not only to pray for peace but also to work for peace.

Lets say together

We work for peace when we listen carefully.

We work for peace when we challenge unfairness.

We work for peace when we welcome people who feel left out.

We work for peace when we refuse to answer cruelty with more cruelty.

We work for peace when we care for one another.

Game: Spinning a Peace Web

How to Play

Everyone stands in a circle.

Leader says "I pray for peace" then keeping hold of the wool throws a ball of wool to someone else.

That child holding the ball of wool says "I care about..." then keeping hold of the wool throws the ball of wool to someone else.

Continue until everyone is holding the web. If the ball of wool gets dropped everybody holds on to their piece of wool and all together we move so that the person can pick the ball of wool up

Leader: "What happens if I let go?"

Notice that the web loosens. This reminds us that;

We need each other.

Prayer connects us.

Caring connects us.

God connects us.

Game Reflections

At first, each of us was holding only one small piece of wool. Then we passed it to one another. Soon, every person was connected. If one person lets go, the web becomes weaker. Everyone starts in a different place because people worship God in many different countries but we are all connected.

World Day of Prayer is like that. We begin in different countries, churches and languages. But as we pray, care and work together, we become one community.

Every person matters.
Every prayer matters.
Every act of kindness strengthens the whole web.

Talking about Together We Pray, Together We Care

Hannah's and Mary's songs speak about God caring for people who are hungry, poor, overlooked or treated unfairly.
How can we care together about these issues?

What Is Justice?

Justice means more than everyone receiving exactly the same thing.

Justice means people receiving what they need to live safely, freely and with dignity.

Justice asks questions such as:

- Does everyone have enough food?
- Does everyone have somewhere safe to live?
- Can everyone go to school?
- Are people listened to and respected whatever their race, gender, disability, religion or background?

World Day of Prayer has been bringing people together in prayer and action for one hundred years. What would you like the next one hundred years to look like?

Do you have any ideas about things we could do together?
Remember that prayerful action does not have to be enormous.
Small actions, repeated faithfully and carried out together, can make a real difference.

Closing Prayer Circle

Prayer Chain

[Invite the children to stand or sit in a circle.]

We are connected with children and adults around the world.
First, we will name some of the places where people are praying.

I will begin by saying:

God, we pray with...

[Invite each child to name a country.]

God, we pray with

Now we will name some of the things we are praying for.

I will begin by saying:

God, we pray for...

[Invite each child to add a prayer.]

God, we pray for...

After everyone has had an opportunity to speak, say together:

Together we have prayed.

Help us together to care. Amen.

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: Let's say together

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
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