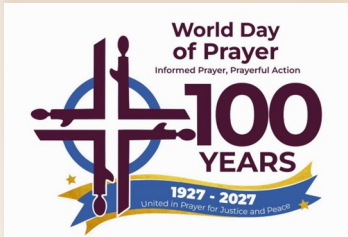
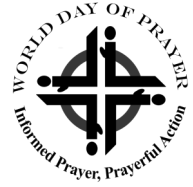


World Day of Prayer

March 5th 2027

United in Prayer for Justice and Peace!

1 Samuel 2:1-10 & Luke 1:39-55



Short Service

World Day of Prayer (Scottish Committee)

Charity Number SC020446

Website <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk>

WE GATHER

Leader:

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer - Welcome
We are reminded of how good it is and what a source of blessing it is if
we can pray together.

Behold how good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity
For when we live in unity
God's blessings overflow
God's justice overflows
God's peace overflows Amen

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit

Verse 1—4

*Words and Music: Peter R Scholtes 1938-2009, Tune: St Brendan's (irregular metre) Songs of
God's People No 111; The Celebration Hymnal No 429)*

Leader:

For a century, Christian women have been leading the world in prayer:
crossing borders, languages and generations; sharing gifts of prayer and
music, art and culture; listening to the Word of God and to women's
voices of hope and sorrow.

Through these hundred years, the Spirit has helped us grow in wisdom
and faith, deepening trust within the body of Christ and shaping us into a
global, ecumenical sisterhood.

Prayer has moved us to action. It has given us courage to confront
injustice, to practise the art of loving our neighbours, to build bridges
across faith traditions, and to witness to the transforming power of God.

Together, we have advocated for racial reconciliation and economic justice. We have offered our time, gifts and resources for the healing of the world.

And so, we lift our voices in praise: for faithful prayer, courageous witness, steadfast hope, loving service, and global solidarity.

Let us lift our voices now in that ancient song of praise.

Hymn: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heav'nly host

Praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost

Words: Thomas Ken 1637-1711 adapted. Music: Old 100th from Genevan Psalter 1551 or Tallis' Canon, Thomas Tallis 1505-1585 (CH4 807, 808)

TELLING THE STORY OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A River through Time.

Leader pours a jug of water into a bowl

Leader:

Close your eyes for a moment. Imagine a river – wide and deep – flowing steadily through time. This river carries the stories of countless women across one hundred years. Their voices still echo in its waters.

Open your eyes. Today, we step into that river. We remember their stories, we honour their faith, and we take up their work. Imagine women in more than 135 countries, on the same day, in many languages, praying the same prayers, sharing the same hopes, and committing themselves to justice and peace. That is the World Day of Prayer.

It began simply. In the years after the First World War, women in North America called for a united day of prayer. Then, in 1927, a small group of women sent a worship service around the world to friends and partners overseas. Women from many nations responded: “We will pray with you.” A global circle of prayer was formed, and the World Day of Prayer was born.

Since then, every year, women from a different country have prepared a service for the whole world. Through their stories we have heard of joy and sorrow, struggle and resilience, faith and hope. Women have named injustice, called for peace, spoken of oppression, and celebrated the courage of communities seeking a better future.

Throughout its history, the World Day of Prayer has invited us to listen: to Scripture, to one another, and to voices that are too often overlooked. Long before many institutions spoke of climate justice, migration, violence against women, or racial and economic inequality, women within this movement were bringing these realities into prayer and calling the church to respond. Its motto remains as relevant today as ever: *Informed Prayer – Prayerful Action*. We learn about the lives of others. We hear their stories. We seek understanding. Then prayer moves us beyond words into action, solidarity, advocacy, and service.

In 2027, the World Day of Prayer celebrates one hundred years of global prayer and witness under the theme “United in Prayer for Justice and Peace.” The centennial calls us to *root* ourselves in the faith of those who came before us, *reflect* on their stories, and *rise* to invest in those who will carry this work into the future.

This story is not finished. A small gathering of women became a worldwide fellowship. One day of prayer became a century of witness. And the river of prayer continues to flow, carrying us forward together in hope, justice, and peace.

So let us give thanks for those who planted seeds before us, honour those who carried the light through war and hardship and celebrate those who serve today.

Let us commit ourselves to the next chapter.

United in prayer.

United in hope.

United in justice.

United in peace.

Let all the people say: **AMEN**

Hymn: United in prayer

United in prayer, God's power we proclaim,

united in prayer, we magnify God's name.

We pray that justice heals what is torn,

we pray that peace will be reborn.

The 2027 theme song: words by the WDPIC Worship Team, music by Brita Falch Leutert.

An alternative option is to sing the theme song using a 10.10.10.10 tune eg Woodlands with the following phrasing:

United in prayer, God's power we proclaim,

united in prayer, we magnify God's name.

We pray that justice heals what has been torn,

we pray, we pray that peace will be reborn.

SCRIPTURE

Leader:

Today we listen to two songs from Scripture—Hannah's song and Mary's song. These two songs are separated by centuries, yet they echo the same melody. A song God continues to sing today. It is a song of justice for the oppressed and peace for the broken.

Hannah's Song: from 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Leader:

Long ago, a woman named Hannah lived in the hill country of Israel. Childless and mocked, she poured out her grief and longing before God. When her prayer was answered, Hannah responded with a song that celebrates God's justice and faithfulness.

Hannah prayed:

"My heart rejoices in God, my strength and my hope. There is no one like you, O God; no rock as steadfast, no love as faithful.

Let boasting and arrogance cease, for you know the truth of every human heart. You overturn the world's expectations: the strong are brought low, and those who struggle are given new strength. The hungry are filled with good things, and those who have known sorrow find new joy.

You are the giver of life and the source of hope. You humble and you lift up. You raise the poor and the forgotten, restoring their dignity and honour. The foundations of the earth belong to you, and your justice reaches to the ends of the world.

You guide those who seek what is right and bring down the powers that oppress. Human strength alone cannot save us, but your love renews, restores, and makes all things new.

In you, the weak find courage, the excluded find welcome, and the weary find hope. Your justice and compassion endure forever."

Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in His justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven:
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we would take Him at His word,
and our lives be filled with glory
from the glory of the Lord.

Words: Fredrick Faber 1814-63 Music: John Stainer 1840-1901 Tune: All for Jesus or any 87 87 metre tune

Leader:

Now we hear another voice – Mary of Nazareth, a young woman who trusted God's surprising call. Mary's song echoes Hannah's song, showing us that God's justice flows from generation to generation.

Mary's Song: from Luke 1:39-55

Centuries after Hannah, in that same hill country, another young woman received unexpected news. Mary, carrying the child of promise, travelled to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognised God's presence among them.

Elizabeth exclaimed:

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you carry. Blessed is the one who trusted that God's promise would be fulfilled.”

And Mary responded with a song of praise:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For God has looked with favour upon one who seemed small and insignificant. The Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name. God's mercy reaches from generation to generation. God has scattered the proud and brought down the powerful from their thrones, while lifting up those who have been overlooked and forgotten. The hungry are filled with good things, and God's people are remembered with compassion and faithfulness.

In all this, God remains true to the promise of justice, mercy, and hope, a promise that continues from generation to generation.”

THE RIVER OF PRAYER

Leader:

Let us pray together

For centuries, the prayers of women have flowed like a river across this earth. Today, we add our voices to the countless women who have prayed before us. Today, we join Hannah and Mary, whose songs have shaped us.

God of our ancestors, we thank you for the continuity of life as we flow with Hannah, Mary, and all the women who came before us. Their prayers and songs still inspire us. Your Spirit connects us across time and space, across creed and culture, language and experience.

Faithful God, you surround us with steadfast love and call us toward abundant life for all creation. We have seen your love in answered prayers, unexpected grace, and moments when you lifted us from despair to hope. You have heard our prayers and blessed our work.

Hymn: We Glorify Your Way of Love

We glorify your way of love,
you turn the world around,
you lead us into justice,
so that peace may abound.

*Words © 2025 WDPIC Centennial Worship Team Music © 2026 Saya Ojiri
(As an alternative churches could use any common metre tune eg Irish CH4 59i)*

Leader:

God of justice and compassion, your love embraces all who long for freedom and dignity. You call us to stand with those harmed by violence, abuse, discrimination, poverty, and exclusion. Bring healing to those who carry trauma, comfort to those who mourn, and hope to those who despair.

You challenge us to work for a world where all people are valued, where work is fairly rewarded, where education and healthcare are accessible, and where every voice is heard and respected. Help us to confront racism, sexism, hatred, and all systems that deny the worth of your children.

God of peace, be present in places of conflict and division. Teach us that true peace is rooted in justice. Help us welcome strangers, support refugees and migrants, and build bridges across the barriers that separate us.

Creator God, we grieve for a world wounded by environmental destruction. Give us wisdom and courage to care for the earth, so that all creation may flourish and future generations may know its beauty and abundance.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, you show us that unity and diversity belong together. Form us into a community where difference is welcomed as a gift, dignity is restored, and hope is renewed. Through our prayers and our actions, may we become instruments of your justice, peace, and healing in the world.

For your love sustains us, your Spirit guides us, and your vision calls us forward. To you be all honour and praise. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader:

Now we join our voices with Christians around the world in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

We invite you to pray in the language closest to your heart —whether the language of your childhood, your heritage, or the language which is most meaningful to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
Forever and ever. **Amen**

Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace

Rejoice and Sing 629: Songs of God's People 76; CH4 528

Original words attributed to St Francis of Assisi 1181/2-1226 Words and Music: Sebastian Temple 1928-97 Tune: Prayer of St Francis irregular

BLESSING OF OUR COMMITMENTS

Leader:

Loving God, you have heard our prayers and received our commitments. Bless these promises we have made. Transform our intentions into action, and let them flow like a river, joining the prayers and work of women around the world, carrying justice and peace wherever they reach. Make us instruments of your peace. Use our prayers to be the answer to someone else's prayer. **Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF OUR GLOBAL UNITY

Affirmation of Belonging

Leader:

Each of you belongs to this movement. Whether this is your first World Day of Prayer service or your fiftieth, you are part of the same 'river of prayer' that carried Hannah's song and Mary's, "Yes."

When you pray at home, you join millions of women across the world. When you work for justice, welcome strangers, stand with the vulnerable, build bridges across differences, or act for peace in your daily life, you carry this 'river' forward, joining God in the transformation of the world.

You belong. You matter. You are part of something beautiful, powerful, and alive.

Blessing and Commissioning

Leader:

You have been blessed by this gathering. Now go and be a blessing to others.

You have received God's peace. Now go and be peacemakers.

You have experienced unity across differences. Now go and build bridges wherever there are walls.

May the God of Hannah give you courage to sing of justice.

May the God of Mary give you strength to say, "Yes", to God's surprising work.

Go in peace to love and serve the Triune God and carry the love of Christ wherever you go.

World Day of Prayer Hymn: The Day You gave us Lord is ended'

The day you gave us Lord is ended
The darkness falls at Your behest
To You our morning hymns ascended
Your praise shall sanctify our rest

We thank You that Your church, unsleeping
While Earth rolls onward into light
Through all the world, her watch is keeping
And rests not now by day or night

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Your wondrous doings heard on high

So be it, Lord, Your throne shall never
Like earth's proud empires, pass away
Your kingdom stands, and grows forever
Till all Your creatures own Your sway.

Words: John Ellerton 1826-93 Music: Clement C Scholefield 1839-1904 Tune: St Clement 9.8.9.8.



APPENDIX: THE RIVER OF TIME

The Appendix gives a more detailed history than is in the text for the Order of Service.

Imagine this: women in over 135 countries, on the same day, in many languages, praying the same prayers, sharing the same hopes, and committing themselves to justice and peace.

That is the World Day of Prayer.

It is one of the largest and longest-running ecumenical movements led by Christian women in the world. But it began very simply — with women who cared enough to pray, to learn and to act.

The roots of the World Day of Prayer lie in the nineteenth century missionary movement. Women heard stories from overseas through letters sent home. They learned of hardship, poverty, injustice, and the struggles of women and children.

And they realised something important: prayer without understanding is shallow; understanding without action is empty.

So they gathered to pray. They studied. They raised money. They supported schools, hospitals, and women's work across the world.

By 1900 they were producing study books that sold in the millions. Women from different churches learned and prayed together across denominational lines — revolutionary in those days!

Then came war.

World War One shattered hopes of Christian unity. Nations that claimed the name of Christ were killing one another.

Yet women continued to pray for peace and for justice.

And after the war, in 1920, women in the United States and Canada called for a united day of prayer.

Then, in 1927, something extraordinary happened.

A small committee of women sent the service around the world to their contacts overseas. Women answered from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America – ‘we will pray with you’.

The circle of prayer embraced the world as women prayed together for peace and for justice. The World Day of Prayer was born.

Since then, every year, women from one country prepare the worship service for the whole world. They speak truth. They tell of joy and pain, struggle and faith, oppression and resilience.

Women from Korea named racism and injustice in 1930.

Women prayed for peace as fascism rose in the 1930s.

During World War Two, women prayed across enemy lines.

Some were arrested simply for distributing prayers for peace.

Prayer became an act of courage.

After the war, the movement kept growing.

Women from India, Argentina, Egypt, Hungary, Ghana, Palestine, Malaysia, Suriname, Taiwan, Nigeria and many more places have shared their voices.

Each year the world is invited to listen.

To listen to Scripture.

To listen to women.

To listen to stories, sometimes similar to our own but sometimes far beyond our own experience.

And then to ask: what more does love require of us now?

The movement has always been ahead of its’ time.

Long before many institutions spoke of climate justice, the World Day of Prayer was speaking of creation care.

Long before migration became a global headline, women were telling stories of displacement and welcome.

Long before many churches addressed violence against women, the World Day of Prayer was naming abuse, trafficking and inequality.

Long before ecumenism became fashionable, women from many traditions were already praying together.

Our motto says it all:

‘Informed Prayer — Prayerful Action’

This means we do not pray in ignorance. We learn about the lives of others. We hear their stories. We try to understand the issues. And then prayer moves us to action:

Local groups advocate for justice. Friendships cross borders. Communities are changed.

World Day of Prayer is global because it is local everywhere. It happens in cathedrals and village halls. In island chapels and city churches. In schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons, and refugee centres. It happens wherever people gather with open hearts.

No movement can create that. Only faithful local communities can.

There have been challenges. The pandemic forced services online. Wars continue.

Poverty persists. The church itself is often divided. And yet the movement endures.

Because it was never built on buildings or budgets. It was built on relationships, courage, and faith.

In 2027 the World Day of Prayer marks one hundred years since that first global gathering in prayer. The centennial theme is: United in Prayer for Justice and Peace.

How timely those words are. In a fractured world, justice and peace are not luxuries, they are urgent callings.

The centennial invites three actions:

Root – remember the women who came before us.

Reflect – tell the stories of those whose faith sustained the movement.

Rise – invest in young women who will carry it forward.

Because this story is not finished.

Never underestimate what can happen when women pray together, organise together., cross boundaries together, refuse to despair together.



Donations made in 2026

Scottish Bible Society	£ 10,000
Nigerian Charities	£ 20,000
International and European work of WDP	£ 3,800
International Committee Travel Fund for 2027	£ 4,000

For a full set of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025, please contact the Treasurer, Suzanne Foster, or view on WDP (www.wdpScotland.org.uk) or OSCR (www.oscr.org.uk).

Plans for this year's funds

The principal aims of the WDP Scottish Committee are to promote the annual WDP service by producing and distributing materials; and to support societies giving physical or spiritual help to people in the writing country. By keeping our costs as low as possible, we can maximise the amount given.

If you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your donation. You can get a declaration form from your service organiser or from the website.

Please give generously!

Offerings must be paid into a bank, with the bank giro slip provided, by bank transfer, to these Bank Details: Bank Name Royal Bank of Scotland: Sort Code: 83-20-06: Account Number: 18873111: or by cheque (payable to WDP Scottish Committee) and sent to the WDP Treasurer, Suzanne Foster, by the end of April 2028 if at all possible.

SCOTTISH COMMITTEE 2026 - 2027 - *Scottish Charity No SC020446*

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Friday 3rd March 2028

Service written by Women of Costa Rica

“Leading the Way in Grace”



World Day of Prayer (Scottish Committee)
Charity Number SC020446
Website <http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk>