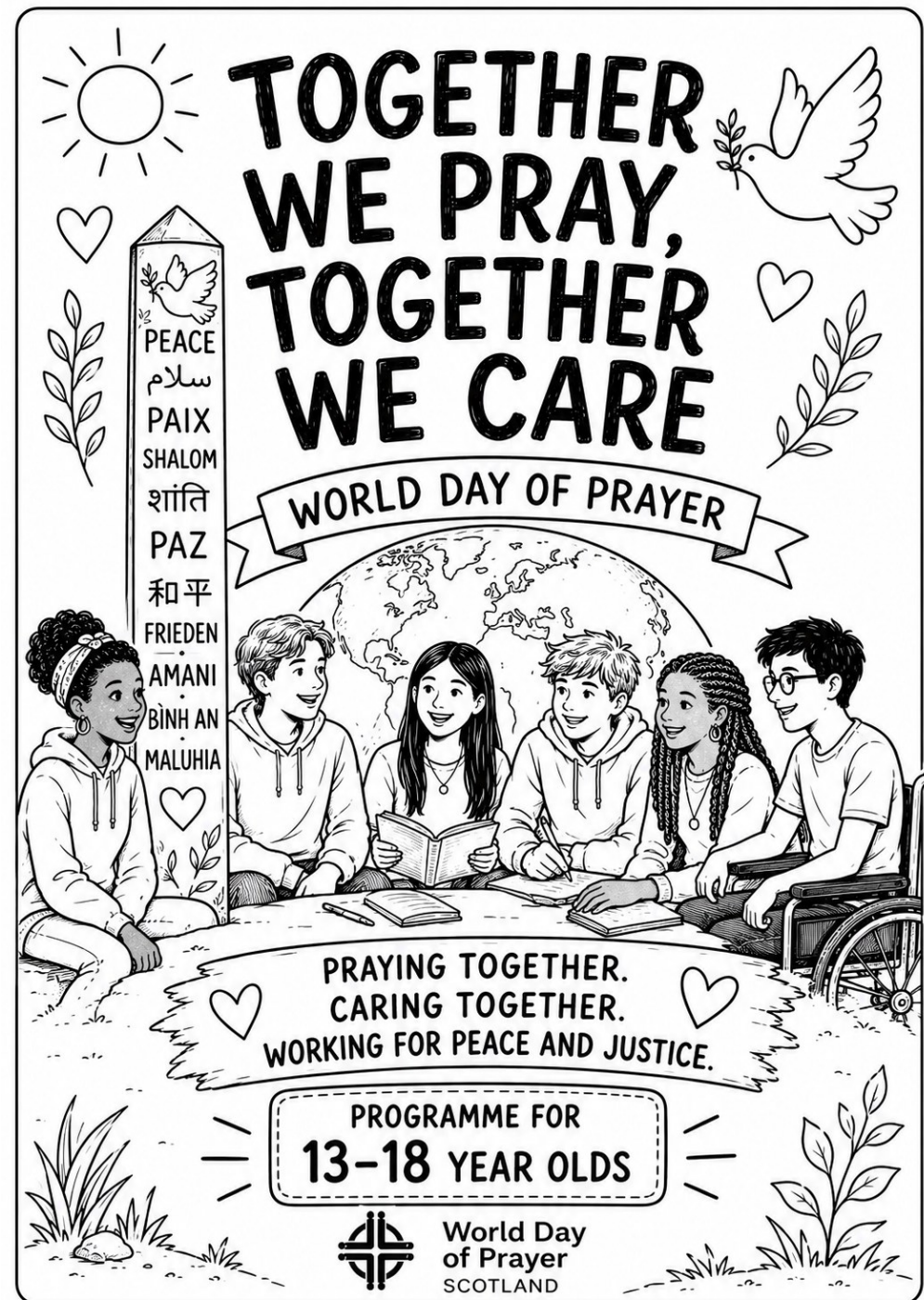


This Programme was written by the World Day of Prayer
International Committee (WDPIC) and adapted by the Scottish WDP
Committee



Opening Prayer

Let us pray together.

God of every generation, we gather today knowing that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. You call people together across countries, cultures, churches and generations. Help us to discover what it means not only to pray together but also to care together. Open our hearts to your vision of justice, peace and hope. Amen.

Check-in: Looking at Our World

Before we begin, remember that today young people in countries across the world are gathering, praying and learning just as we are. Take a moment to think about the news, social media or conversations you've had recently.

Discussion

What is one situation in our world today that you think most needs prayer? Why does it matter to you?

Allow time for discussion.

Leader concludes:

When we pray, we join millions of people who are bringing these same concerns before God. Prayer reminds us that we are never facing the world's challenges alone.

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 often begins with small acts of faithfulness that grow into something much larger than anyone imagined.

Today we ask: **What might this mean for our generation?**

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.

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.

Commissioning

Leader

Prayer changes people.

People change communities.

Communities change the world.

May we become people whose prayers lead us to courageous action.

All

Together we pray.

Together we care.

Together we work for justice and peace.

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Let's pray together

God of Hannah, God of Mary, God of Elizabeth,

Thank you for people whose courage has inspired generations.

Teach us to pray honestly.

Teach us to listen deeply.

Teach us to stand alongside those who are overlooked, excluded or treated unfairly.

May our prayers open our eyes.

May our compassion move our feet.

May our lives become signs of your justice, peace and hope.

Send us out to pray together, care together, and help your love grow in the world.

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.

Justice Today: Seeing the World Through God's Eyes

Hannah and Mary both prayed about justice—about God lifting up the marginalized, feeding the hungry, and reversing oppressive systems. Their prayers weren't vague or generic; they named specific realities. So let's do the same.

Guiding questions:

- What does injustice look like today?
- What issues keep coming up in the news or on social media?
- What do you see happening around you that feels wrong or broken?
- What do your friends worry about or struggle with?

Discuss together and organize issues into three categories.

- Local (in our community, school, neighbourhood)
- National (in our country)
- Global (around the world)

Towards Prayerful Action

WDP has always believed that 'informed prayer leads to prayerful action.' When we truly pray with people—learning their stories and hearing their voices—we start to care deeply about what they care about. And when we truly care, we're moved to act.

As a whole group, choose one issue from the brainstorm that resonates most deeply. Then design a response together that includes both prayer AND action.]

1. Prayer Component - How will we pray with (not just for) people affected by this issue?
 - How can we learn their stories first?
 - Whose voices do we need to listen to?
 - Can we invite them to pray with us?
2. Action Component - What's one concrete thing we can do together?
 - Be specific and realistic
 - What can we accomplish in the next 2-4 weeks?
 - How does this action flow from what we learn through prayer?

He's got the little children in his hands. X4

He's got everybody here in his hands x4

Scripture Study

Two Women. Two Songs. One God.

Hannah

Hannah carried a deep sadness. She longed for a child but remained unable to have one. In her society, this affected not only her family life but also how others judged her. Her pain was both deeply personal and painfully public. Yet Hannah continued bringing her whole self to God.

When she prayed in the temple, she did not hide behind polite words. She brought her grief. Her anger. Her disappointment. Her hope. Even Eli misunderstood what he saw. He assumed she was drunk. Instead, Hannah was showing extraordinary honesty before God.

God listened. Her life eventually changed, and Samuel was born. Yet Hannah's greatest gift to Scripture is not Samuel. It is her song. Her prayer declares that God notices people the world overlooks.

God feeds the hungry.

Raises those who have been brought low.

Challenges the proud.

Strengthens those without power.

Hannah reminds us that prayer is not pretending everything is fine. Prayer is trusting God with the truth. Prayer does not guarantee that life will unfold exactly as we hope. It does remind us that God listens, remains present and continues to work even when we cannot yet see the outcome

Mary and Elizabeth

Centuries later another young woman found herself facing an uncertain future. Mary was probably a teenager. An angel announced that she would bear the Messiah. For us this may sound familiar. For Mary it was frightening. She faced misunderstanding. Public shame. An uncertain future. Perhaps even danger.

So Mary did something wise. She sought someone she trusted. Elizabeth welcomed her. She listened. She believed Mary. She created a safe place where Mary could think, question and grow. Only then did Mary find her voice. Her song, the Magnificat, echoes Hannah's prayer.

Mary proclaims a God who:

lifts up the humble,
feeds the hungry,
challenges unjust power,
and remembers forgotten people.

Mary is not a passive figure simply accepting God's plans. She becomes a courageous young theologian, interpreting God's work in the world with remarkable confidence. Her story reminds us that faith often grows through trusted relationships. God frequently speaks through people who make space for us to become who we are called to be

Their Shared Witness

Although separated by centuries, Hannah and Mary have much in common.

- Both lived with uncertainty.
- Both prayed honestly.
- Both trusted God without knowing what would happen next.
- Both discovered that God was already at work before they could see the outcome.
- Both proclaimed a God whose justice overturns human expectations.

Their stories invite us to ask:
Who are today's Hannahs?
Who are today's Marys?
Whose voices are still ignored?
Whose stories still need to be heard?

Discussion

- Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Why do you think she needed that time?
- Who are the "Elizabeths" in your own life?
- What makes someone a safe person?
- Why can honest prayer sometimes feel difficult?
- Hannah's and Mary's songs speak about justice rather than revenge. What is the difference?
- Where do you see signs of God's justice beginning to appear today?

Research Activity: WDP Through Crisis and Change

World Day of Prayer has survived wars, pandemics, political upheaval, and technological revolution over the past hundred years. Each generation has faced the question: How do we keep praying together when the world is going through crisis and change?

[Divide into small groups, each exploring a different theme. Discuss the questions in the small groups, then come back to the larger group to share. The following]

- one challenge WDP faced
- one reason it survived
- one lesson for our generation

Group 1: 1927-1945 – Praying Through World Wars

How do you think WWI and WWII impacted World Day of Prayer?

What conflicts exist in our world today? Why does a global day of prayer matter amidst these conflicts?

Group 2: 1950s-1960s – Breaking Down Barriers

Why do you think it was such a challenge for Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Christians to pray together?

What are the barriers between Christians today? How can they be overcome?

•Group 3: 1970s-1990s – International Meetings

What difference do you think it made for WDP participants to actually meet people face-to-face from other parts of the world (rather than just reading about them)?

What's exciting AND what's challenging about meeting people from different cultures and countries?

Group 4: 2000-2027 – The Digital Age

How did WDP change as a result of changes in technology?

What is lost and what is gained by using technology to connect for prayer and worship?