



The Church of Scotland

Light

IN THE DARKNESS

Liturgical service prayers for congregations

Day of Prayer

31 OCTOBER 2026



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1. God brings the light

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader:

God of light,

you spoke, and there was light.

You brought order out of chaos,

hope out of despair,

and life out of nothing.

Today we come before you in prayer.

All:

Open our eyes to see where your light is already shining.

Open our hearts to receive your light.

Open our hands to carry your light.

And open our churches and our communities

to the transforming work of your Spirit.

Leader:

May this be a day when hope grows,

when faith is renewed,

and when your light shines more brightly

in the Church of Scotland and throughout our communities.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

the Light of the World.

Amen



2. God searches our darkness

Leader: God who sees us completely,

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the things we have done
that have caused hurt:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the things we have failed to do
when we could have made a difference:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the times when fear has been stronger than faith:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the times when selfishness has been stronger than love:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the prejudices, assumptions and divisions
we carry within us:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: For the places in our lives
where we have resisted your transforming work:

All: Bring us into your light.

Leader: Search us, O God,
and know our hearts.

All: Lead us in the way everlasting.

Leader:

God our maker –

We need not hide ourselves from your light,

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour –

You shine upon us and bring us into the presence of God,

Holy Spirit our Counsellor and guide –

you light the path before us.

Make us people who walk in your light

And reflect your light to others.

Amen.



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3. God's people shine

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayers for the Church

Leader: For a Church transformed by the love of Christ
and equipped by the Holy Spirit for mission:

All: Lord, shine through us.

Leader: For congregations facing uncertainty or discouragement:

All: Lord, give us hope.

Leader: For congregations experiencing growth and renewal:

All: Lord, give us humility.

Leader: For ministers, deacons, elders and all who serve:

All: Lord, give us strength.

Leader: For courage to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ:

All: Lord, give us boldness.

Leader: For wisdom to discern where you are calling us:

All: Lord, give us vision.

Leader: For unity in the midst of our differences:

All: Lord, give us grace.

Leader: For churches that are places of welcome, belonging and hope:

All: Lord, make us your light.

Leader: For the Church of Scotland,
in every congregation and every community:

All: Lord, shine your light among us.

Leader:

In a moment of silence, we now pray for our own congregation.

For the people who worship here.

For those who serve here.

For those who have become discouraged.

For those who are exploring faith.

For the opportunities God has placed before us.

For the places where we need courage to change.

And for the people who are not yet part of our church family.

(Silence)

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers for your Church.

All: Let your light shine through us. Amen.



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4. God's light brings hope

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayers for Children & Young People

Leader: For children and young people in our families and communities:

All: Lord, shine your light upon them.

Leader: For those who are lonely, anxious or afraid:

All: Lord, surround them with your love.

Leader: For those struggling with friendship, identity or belonging:

All: Lord, give them hope.

Leader: For those facing poverty, neglect, abuse or insecurity:

All: Lord, be their refuge.

Leader: For teachers, chaplains, youth workers and children's workers:

All: Lord, give them wisdom and compassion.

Leader: For parents, grandparents, carers and families:

All: Lord, give them strength.

Leader: For churches seeking to welcome and listen to young people:

All: Lord, make us communities of belonging.

Leader: For a generation discovering the hope of Jesus Christ:

All: Lord, let your light shine.

Leader: In a moment of silence we pray for children and young people known to us.

(Silence)

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers.

All: And let your light shine upon them.



5. God's light transforms communities

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayers for our community

Leader: For those who are lonely or isolated:

All: Bring friendship and belonging.

Leader: For families under pressure:

All: Bring strength and support.

Leader: For those experiencing poverty or debt:

All: Bring provision and hope.

Leader: For those affected by addiction:

All: Bring freedom and healing.

Leader: For those experiencing homelessness or insecurity:

All: Bring shelter and dignity.

Leader: For those affected by violence or abuse:

All: Bring safety and justice.

Leader: For schools, businesses, charities and community organisations:

All: Give wisdom, compassion and strength.

Leader: For those who serve our communities day after day:

All: Strengthen their hands.

Leader: For our churches, that we would go beyond our buildings
and meet people where they are:

All: Lord, make us your light.

Leader:

God of light,

we bring before you the community in which you have placed us.

We pray for its streets and homes.

Its schools and workplaces.

Its shops and businesses.

Its community groups and organisations.

Its places of joy.

Its places of pain.

Its people who are flourishing.

And its people who are struggling.

Lord, you know every person and every place.

Let your light shine in this community.

All:

And make us bearers of your light.



6. God's light overcomes our fears

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayers for Scotland and the World

Leader: For Scotland and all its people:

All: Let your light shine.

Leader: For those living with fear and uncertainty:

All: Let your light shine.

Leader: For places affected by war and conflict:

All: Let your light shine.

Leader: For victims of violence and injustice:

All: Let your light shine.

Leader: For those who have lost homes, livelihoods or loved ones:

All: Let your light shine.

Leader: For those working for peace and reconciliation:

All: Strengthen their hands.

Leader: For leaders and all who carry responsibility:

All: Give them wisdom and courage.

Leader: For those who feel that hope has been lost:

All: Renew their hope.

Leader: For your Church throughout the world:

All: Make us faithful witnesses.

Leader: For the coming of your kingdom,
when justice and peace will reign:

All: Lord, let your light shine.

All:

**God of hope,
when we look at the darkness around us,
keep us from despair.**

**When we hear stories of suffering,
keep us from indifference.**

**When we face things we cannot change,
teach us to trust you.**

**And when we see places where your light is already shining,
give us eyes to recognise your work.**

May hope rise.

May justice grow.

May peace come.

**And may the light of Christ
shine into every place of darkness.**

Amen.



7. We are sent to shine

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayers for commitment

Leader: Jesus, Light of the World,

All: Shine through us.

Leader: Where there is darkness:

All: Make us bearers of light.

Leader: Where there is loneliness:

All: Make us bearers of friendship.

Leader: Where there is injustice:

All: Make us bearers of righteousness.

Leader: Where there is division:

All: Make us bearers of peace.

Leader: Where there is suffering:

All: Make us bearers of compassion.

Leader: Where there is despair:

All: Make us bearers of hope.

Leader: Where people are searching:

All: Make us faithful witnesses to Jesus.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers,

And hear us as we pray together

saying the words of the Lord's Prayer:

All:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever.

Amen.