



*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

Additional Prayers – March 2023

For World Day of Prayer (Friday 3rd March 2023)

Gracious and Loving God, the focus of all our hopes, we thank You for the World Day of Prayer, for the opportunity it gives us to share our hopes and our concerns we are sisters and brothers around the globe and for the way in which it calls us to bring our prayers alive through prayerful action. We thank You for the plans and promises You have made for us, which give us hope for today and tomorrow. Gracious and Loving God, as we move forward into an uncertain future, which many people see as black and hopeless we ask You to help us to be people who listen to your word, who follow Your plans for us and who radiate confidence and hope to all, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Elizabeth Burroughs

Prayer for Ukraine (one year on..)

God of the past, the present and the future,

Our thoughts and prayers are still with our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine, and for all the refugees who have fled their homeland, and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress.

We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression.

*We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred,
peace will conquer war,
hope will replace despair
and that your plans for the region will be fulfilled.*

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

(By WDP England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2022)

"I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."

Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message)

Prayer for Turkey & Syria

Lord of all,

We continue to remember in our prayers the areas of Turkey and Syria affected by the recent earthquakes, especially for those whose lives have been overwhelmed by this disaster and its aftermath. We pray for all who have lost their homes, or who do not feel it is safe enough to return to their homes, whether damaged or apparently intact after the disaster. We pray for those who have witnessed so much and lost so many friends and loved ones, those who have been left shocked & bewildered by everything they have witnessed and experienced. We pray for the communities who face the huge task of rebuilding, repairing and restoring at least a part of that which was lost. Guide, with wisdom, those whose job it is to help in this restructuring – be that governments, architects, construction workers or aid agencies. As the people try to bring some semblance of order back into their lives, help them to adjust to changing circumstances and rebuild for the future. We ask that you would give them love, comfort, reassurance, strength, support and guidance as they move forward. Reach out to hold and reach out to help them.

Amen

"When Moses' arms grew tired, Aaron and Hur brought a stone for him to sit on, while they stood beside him and held up his arms, holding them steady until the sun went down."

Exodus 17:12

Father God,

Help us to remember the power of prayer. We join Your army of saint and angel and ordinary folk who do Your kingdom's work. Doing it together, we hold up one another's hands in praise and prayer. As children, we are given simple rules for prayer. As we age, things change and we discover different ways of prayer, as we seek discern Your ways and strategies in our lives and in the lives of others. We thank You for the support of other people in our congregations, in smaller groups and those who we are closest to. Lord, this can often be hard work, so grant us Your strength and grace as we help one another. We thank you that, although prayer is a discipline, it is also a delight. Help us to remember that the hardest work has already been done through Your Son, Jesus Christ and may this spur us on to continue on our journey. Even when we cannot find the words, help us to still come before You and listen for what You have to say to us.

Amen

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51, v10 (KJV)

Lord,

As we move into March, we can take joy in the signs of spring we see all around us in new growth and flowers sprouting up as we move forward towards Easter. As we make our way through Lent, help us to re-focus, to learn self-discipline and commitment, even when we feel fickle and unprepared to follow You. Take our lives, we pray, and shape them according to Your original design. Make them fruitful and joyful as we bend to Your gentle persuasion. Help us to faithfully proclaim Your gospel and demonstrate in our lives the justice of Your Kingdom. Come to Your Church and spring-clean our ways of life, structures and priorities. Sweep out the false pride, self-seeking, deceit, corruption and lies in this broken and hurting world. May the kingdoms of this earth seek justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Lord of Lent, renew our lives.

Amen

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them!"

Acts 7:60

Lord God,

We all know that life is sacred, but we never see murder out of the news headlines, day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year. Keep our hearts open and soft, time after terrible time; may we be well practised in answering brutality with peace, and again peace, that we may live up to being Your children. Be with the ones who turn their backs on revenge, do not take a life for a life, refuse to escalate violence and do not allow hatred to take hold. As deep as they are wounded, pour Your Love deeper still. May God bless each of them and those who caused their pain. Help us to live up to Your almost impossible task of forgiving. Amen

(Together we pray, Church of Scotland)