

The call to worship Psalm 145:10-12 “The Message”

Creation and creatures applaud you, GOD;
your holy people bless you.
They talk about the glories of your rule,
they exclaim over your splendour,
Letting the world know of your power for good,
the lavish splendour of your kingdom.

Opening prayers (Church of Scotland, adapted)

Creator God,
You have created all things good.
Nothing is beyond Your reach or Your redemption.
You are the God of the whole universe,
of all of creation and yet You are mindful of us.
You call on us to reveal Your presence and to speak of Your faithfulness from
generation to generation.
Wherever we gather, You are there.
You were there before we arrived and will be there when we leave.
Your presence makes every space a sacred space.
You delight in our praise and rejoice in all Your people who find a way to
acknowledge Your presence in our world and in our lives.
May our worship bring us back to You and increase our awareness of Your beating
heart at the centre of life, calming our fears and restoring our souls, knowing
ourselves beloved of God, united with all Your creatures in heaven and on earth.

We confess to God that often our eyes are so downcast that we fail to discern God's
presence all around.
We confess that, even when God's presence is startling,
we can be so wrapped up in ourselves that we fail to notice.
We confess that we have missed opportunities to witness to the presence of God at
work in our lives and in the lives of others.
We confess that we rarely live up to the marks of being Christian by grasping too
tightly all that we have and by excluding others from our tightly drawn circle.
Forgive us, O God. Lift up our eyes to see You everywhere.
Draw us out of ourselves to discern Your presence all around.
Give us boldness to proclaim Your works.
Release us from the boundaries we set ourselves, freeing us to love and welcome
others in Your name.
Commission us anew, in the light of Your forgiveness to draw attention to You in all
of life.
Amen

Prayers of concern

Creator God we know You love all that You have made, the world and all its creatures.

We know that Your love gathers and enfolds all things.

And Your heart must break when any part of Your creation suffers.

So God, as our awareness grows of Your presence all around, may we be so attuned that we weep where You weep and our hearts break where Yours is broken.

Parent God, in love, You will kneel beside us and patiently show us how to make things better, how to heal the damage humanity is causing to this precious home of ours.

We ask that You will affirm us and give us each a unique part to play in changing the world, in ushering in Your justice and Your peace.

So, God, prepared to roll up our sleeves and work alongside You, we pray for world leaders, that they too may be filled with Your wisdom and love and Your healing power.

We pray that their imaginations, and ours too, may be opened to find new ways forward and the possibilities that abound for honouring all creation and for building nations where all are valued, where all matter, where the economy is modelled on Your divine economy.

We pray for all who live in fear today and for those whose fears have been realised – those who mourn loved ones, those who see no light of dawn after darkness.

We pray too for those who have given up hoping for different or better.

May we hold out hope and faith enough for the world and may we live in love.

God awaken us to Your truth and Your light, to all the opportunities we have of emerging from darkness fuelled by new energy to make our world, our church and our neighbourhood beacons of hope that is realised in our serving You by serving one another.

Prayer concerns for today

The Lord's Prayer