

## Prayers

### **Approach** (Church of Scotland, adapted)

Wonderous God

We come to you offering our worship, offering ourselves,  
giving all that we are in devotion and gratitude for your love that is beyond all  
measure.

We come, in this time of Advent preparing our way of welcome,  
looking forward with joyful expectation to celebrate the birth of Jesus once more  
looking forward with great anticipation to the completion of your kingdom.

Lord Jesus,

You came and come to all

You came and come especially to the poorest and the most vulnerable.

Come to us here, Lord Jesus

to help and to heal the poverty of our souls

to refresh and inspire us even through the weakness of our faith.

Come - to love and to hold us – to give us the courage always to point to You.

We confess that we have not always welcomed your offer to lead us in your ways.  
We have preferred our own agenda, kept ourselves comfortable at the expense of  
the weakest and poorest.

And we have kept silence when we should have spoken out.

Come - to love and to hold us – forgive us and help us always to point to You.

Amen

## **Thanksgiving and Intercession** (Church of Scotland)

Creator God, we thank You, for Your Son – the Light of the world.  
We thank You too, for those in every generation who have faithfully pointed to Him and who have spread His light in even the darkest times.

Lord Jesus,  
may we find the courage to point to the hope and comfort and peace You offer, especially in times of difficulty and sorrow.  
May we witness to Your love and Your goodness Your presence and Your compassion.  
And thank You – thank You for the family of Your people meeting throughout the world this day – all of us gathered only too aware of our faults and our limitations, but knowing too, that You, Lord Jesus, can take the tiniest spark and fan it into a raging fire.

Give us the courage and the desire to seek to serve You as best we can – and in that service may we reflect the life You lived.

We offer You our prayers for those who struggle with this season.

We think of the bereaved, of those who cannot afford to celebrate as they might want, of those with no one to share a table, and of those for whom having to isolate in this season is such a struggle.

Lord God, You understand and share tears and silences, disappointments and regrets.

Bring Your comfort, fill with Your strength, and grant all Your peace...

We pray too, for places in the world where conflict and violence are rife...

For places where nature has been harsh – and we have been thoughtless about caring for Your creation:

Give us greater concern for one another and an even greater willingness to do whatever we can for each other and for the world itself.

So, may we work with You, Lord God, to make this world, the world You intended it to be – a world where people care and love and laugh a world where justice reigns and peace is evident and where all know they belong.

These prayers, along with our gratitude for the birth of Your Son, we offer You in His name and for His sake.

We conclude our prayers with the Lord's Prayer: Our Father .....  
Amen