

**Church groups across Scotland are asking Christians to join in prayer at 7pm on Sunday evenings.**

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "When so much is not normal how lovely it can be to come together at 7pm each Sunday and have a few moments in which we can pray together. Let me encourage you to keep hope alive and join with us in prayer."

**Joint prayer from Christians in Scotland:**

***We turn to you, our Father, for we need your help.***

***Lord Jesus, as you have promised, be with us, whatever lies ahead,***

***Strengthen us, Holy Spirit, as we face this together.***

***We pray for our world and our country,***

***as coronavirus threatens our lives and our livelihood, leaving many in lockdown, while key workers continue, despite the risk.***

***We pray for government leaders at Westminster and Holyrood,***

***responding to medical and scientific advice,***

***making tough decisions for the wellbeing of all.***

***We pray for all who serve on the frontline in the NHS and in social care;***

***facing increasing numbers, overstretched resources and distressing human need.***

***Bless those who are ill, those who are alone and afraid,***

***those exhausted looking after their family, those worried for the vulnerable,***

***those fearful for their finances, those shut in to their fears.***

***Thank you for those who have returned from retirement to help,***

***or joined the volunteer army.***

***Thank you for those working:***

***to manufacture needed resources,***

***to find a vaccine,***

***to keep in contact with the isolated,***

***to encourage others at this time.***

***Have mercy on us, O Lord.***

***Give us faith, hope and love and hear our prayers,***

***in Jesus' name. Amen.***