

Welcome

Hello everyone and thank you for climbing this hill with us to praise, pray and declare God's sovereignty over our islands! There are others joining us! (*leader to point out other hills - Costa, Westray, Shapinsay, Wideford, Ward Hill (Orphir), Dunnet Head (nr. Thurso), Canisp (Sutherland), Port Glasgow, Wittenham Clumps (Oxfordshire)*). This might be a bit different from a "normal" prayer meeting, and not just because of the location! We believe that God is going to do something big in Orkney, He is already stirring things, and so we feel called to pray big, bold prayers to that effect. The style of prayer might be a bit different, but hopefully we can all agree that we want to see more of God's Kingdom released on earth! In Matthew 18 Jesus tells us, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Our prayers have more power if we are in agreement, so please do throw in an 'Amen' when you can.

This afternoon we're going to lift our worship to God from these 9 High Places and then pray and declare God's truth over the land and over a few key areas that we feel called to pray for. There will be some times when we invite you to pray your own prayers for these key areas for a couple of minutes, and in these times, if we can all turn out towards Orkney and pray our own prayers out loud at the same time, it's going to be powerful.

Worship time - Great are you Lord - I speak Jesus

We have Gathered

Leading Prayer : We have come and gathered on the high places, to lift our eyes to God, to raise our voices in praise and prayer and to open our hearts over the land. We have come to seek Your face God and to declare Your living word!

We praise you, Lord, for those who have come before us, who have lived and worshipped here, who have poured out prayer and praise, and we thank you for the story of Your faithfulness throughout the generations. Today we add our prayers to all that have been poured out over the years, and we ask, Lord, that Your presence would come to Orkney as an answer to these prayers.

We pray now that this time together in the high places would be holy, set apart and powerful. May our words align with Your heart and may Your will be done on these islands as it is in heaven!

We declare the truth of Psalm 24 over Orkney, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. For He laid the earth's foundations on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.'

We have come today in unity as Your children to boldly declare Your goodness, Your purposes, Your sovereign will and Your Lordship over Orkney. For You are Lord of all!

Let's take a moment praying out together to declare His Lordship over these islands.

Praying out together for 3-5 minutes

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving onto next section.

Prayer and Intercession

We have chosen 5 broad key areas to pray over together. We will introduce each area with a prayer and then we encourage you to take a few minutes to bring your own prayers and requests before God, and to declare His Kingdom come over each one! Remember, we can approach His throne boldly! Hebrews 4 says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need".

So we'll start with praying over the *physical and mental health* of our communities.

Leading Prayer : Father, we know that You are Lord over all, that You care deeply for every person that You have made. We know that You know us personally and fully - down to the number of hairs on our heads. We see many people suffering with mental health difficulties and we believe that Jesus, You are the answer! So we ask, Lord, that you would bring freedom for the captives. And that You would guide and lead us in how to help Your children who struggle in this area - give us wisdom, discernment and grace.

So we bring the health and wellbeing of our families, friends, neighbours and colleagues before You, We ask for your healing touch on broken bodies and on troubled minds.

Lord, we see the strain and pressure on the health and care system here in Orkney. So we ask for Your provision and Your resources. We ask that You would put the right people in the right places to bring Your Kingdom and favour into our health and care system.

Praying out together for 3 minutes - Now let's pray out together - you might want to pray for a specific person, place or a specific illness, infirmity or disability. Whatever you choose, let's declare His restoration.

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving on to next theme.

Poverty & Housing Crisis

Leading Prayer : Lord, we see people - our neighbours and friends - struggling with poverty, with inadequate housing, with unmanageable debt, families struggling to put food on the table and to heat their homes. We see the toll this can play on people's physical wellbeing and mental health. We cry out to You for solutions!

Lord, would you bring wisdom to decision makers, strategy to house builders, meaningful work to the unemployed, benefits and support to those who need them. Would You bring your peace to people who are full of anxiety about what the future holds for them. Would you gather people around them who have solutions and support for them. Lord, would you make a way where there seems to be no way.

Praying out together for 3 minutes

Leader draw folks back together with a short prayer before moving on to next theme.

Leadership over the Island

Leading Prayer : Father, we ask that You bless the leadership here in Orkney. We pray for our councillors, our leaders, our headteachers, our business leaders, our health and social care decision makers and our employers. We ask that you would increase Your influence in the leadership of Orkney, that You would release wisdom and discernment and that you would steer the strategies and plans for our islands to bring glory to Your name and

favour to Your people. Would you bring resources and finance to these islands, and bring the skills needed in our council and to our decision makers.

Would you give Your people courage to speak Your truth, Your wisdom and Your love into difficult and divisive situations of power.

Praying out together for 3 minutes for the leadership in Orkney

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving onto the next theme.

Young Folk

Leader Prayer : Father, we thank You for the young people and children in our county. We thank You that You have created them with, and for, a purpose. We recognise the ways that the darkness would try to hijack the plans that You have for them, by confusing them about who they are, by leading them into addiction and anxiety, abandonment and brokenness, by distorting their views of Your world. So we pray that You would raise up a generation who will faithfully follow You, no matter the cost. Who will speak Your truth and who will boldly declare the gospel to their generation. Who will speak hope into the hopeless places.

And we pray for the education systems that these young people are a part of. We cry out for your presence to be manifest in these schools and the college. We pray that you would bring Christian staff and teachers into our schools who would be a light for You in their classrooms and corridors.

Lord, we ask that You would move mightily over this generation, that they would turn their hearts towards You!

Praying out together for 3 minutes for young people

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving onto the next theme.

The Church

Father, we ask for an increase of Your Kingdom in our churches here in Orkney. We ask that Your will would be done amongst us, that we would be moldable and pliable in Your hands, obedient to Your voice and Your direction - that You would lead us in how to live and act more like your Son, Jesus.

Jesus, would you lead us in Your ministry. Lead us in sharing the gospel and ministering to the lost, lead us in loving one another and raising disciples and particularly we ask you to lead us in works of faith - Would you lead us out in steps of faith to do the same things You did on this earth.

And we ask that Your spirit would descend on Your children here in Orkney - please would You stir in us a new hope and excitement for what You will do here in Orkney. We ask that we would be aware of Your presence with us and in us and that we would see more of your glory here!

We declare, as it says in Isaiah 61, that "This is the year of the Lord's favour". So we command the spirits of poverty and oppression to leave our churches and our families in Jesus' name. It is written - "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" - so we ask that any strongholds of low self-worth and lack of authority would be

broken in Jesus' name. We command the spirit of infirmity to back off of our churches in Jesus name! - we declare the Lord's will for health and healing over our churches and families. We declare that "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" and we proclaim the coming of a season of faith, signs, and wonders and a release of the love of God on these islands.

And we pray sincerely for unity amongst the believers here. Would you bind us together in love, gathered around a shared devotion to You, and Your will for these islands.

Praying out together for 3 minutes for churches

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving onto the final theme.

Salvation

Over the last few years, God, You have repeatedly spoken to us of a groundswell, a wellspring of living water bursting forth in Orkney, and at the last High Places Prayer You affirmed this picture by causing actual water to spurt from the ground. We thank You for speaking to us and for this exciting picture of your plans for Orkney.

More recently, You have spoken to us of the centuries of prayers that have gone up to heaven from Orkney, and that our prayers now are being gathered up with all of these. We believe You have said that Your Holy Spirit, Your manifest presence, will be released in these islands as an answer to these prayers. We praise You, Father for your faithfulness and grace that you would answer these prayers and release your Holy Spirit here! We thank you Father that you will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Oh, how we long to see more of Your Spirit at work in these islands! Our hearts cry out for the lost, the broken and the hurting. For the abandoned, the isolated, and the prodigals. For the sick, the depressed and the confused. We long to see Your healing and restoration released in our communities, to see new life springing up around us as Your Spirit is released!

And Father, we believe You have said that the time for that release is here! So we declare this in faith over our islands. We declare that it is the Lord's will for an outpouring of His Holy Spirit to be released in Orkney now. We declare that His presence is coming to bind up the brokenhearted and to release the captives in our islands, to bring healing, freedom and life in all its fullness. We declare that this is the year of the Lord's favour in Orkney!

So Lord, we bring all of these requests and declarations before You. The health and wellbeing of our community, their practical needs and cares, the future of our young people, and the leadership of the county. But above all of this, we cry out for the people of Orkney. We ask that you would touch every heart, every home, every workplace, every school and every care home with Your presence and Your love.

Praying out together for 3 minutes - Let's pray out boldly now for the presence of God to be released in our communities.

Leader draws folks back together with a short prayer before moving onto a time of blessing.

Blessing

Encourage folk to face each direction (north, south, east, west) and declare:

Lord we thank you for your faithfulness to us, we thank you that you are always good, we thank you that you have plans and purposes for our islands and our communities. So we bless you Orkney in the name of Jesus!

We bless the land, the sea, and all who live here. We speak God's peace, healing, and restoration over every community. We declare that Orkney will be known for the presence of God, for righteousness, compassion, and truth. Come Holy Spirit.

Commissioning

Lord, as we leave this high place and make our way back to our homes and communities, would you send us back with joy and purpose. Make us messengers of Your peace and hope, for "Blessed are the feet of those who bring good news." (Isaiah 52:7) Let the prayers we've offered rise like incense before You, And let Your kingdom come—on hilltop, valley, and shore - on Orkney as it is in heaven.

Amen