

PRAYER

Used at the opening of the General Assembly, 2009, by the retiring Moderator, the Rt. Rev. David Lunan.

The Lord is our shepherd.

We have everything we need.

He restores our souls, he lead us in the paths of righteousness.

We will fear no evil, because you are with us.

Let us pray.

You are with us Lord Jesus Christ, Good shepherd, risen and ascended: and we lack for nothing: we shall not want.

You are with us, Holy Spirit of the living God, powerful as the wind, gentle as the breeze, invisible Holy Spirit, in us and around us like the air we breathe: you revive our spirits, you restore our souls, you lead us in the right path. Come Holy Spirit.

You are with us Lord God Almighty: maker of heaven and earth: you are with us, and we stand on holy ground. We close our eyes and lay bare our souls. We can come no nearer, loving Father, you are with us in the beginning, you are with us to the end: you are with us now.

Look in your mercy upon us as we pray, Lord God, for we have strayed and doubted, we have been disobedient and not sought first your Kingdom as the priority of our lives: forgive us, we pray, our want of trust, our lack of love.

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, you laid down your life that we might live: you took the sin of the world and nailed it to the cross that we might be free.

Grant us now the assurance of your pardon, and by the grace you so freely give, may we now forgive all our debtors: all who have wronged us or let us down: that they and we together might sit with you at the table you have prepared for us.

As we gather in General Assembly, Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd King and Head of the Church, from across the nation and across the world, may we know that we are of one blood by creation and redemption: as you are our God and we are your people, grant us the mind of Christ in all we say and all we hear, and guide us by your Holy Spirit in all we decide and all we do:

And may your goodness and your mercy be with us, till all the world is holy ground, and your house is our dwelling place forever.

May your goodness and mercy be with our Queen, and her family, all who serve her; with her Lord High Commissioner and his household; with all who are present and with the churches and parishes from which we come;

that you might use us Lord God, to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to be channels of your peace and ambassadors of your Kingdom till at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of your holy name.

Hear this our prayer; hear the unspoken prayers of our hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord.