

St Magnus Scottish Episcopal Church, Lerwick
SC014584

Advent Candle Prayers 2025

Week 1 : Hope

Joyce gave birth to Emiliana as bombs fell nearby. Just two months later, gunfire forced her family to flee into the forest. With Emiliana tied to her chest, Joyce ran through the night, praying for her children's survival. "I asked God to give me health, strength and wisdom to raise Emiliana well." Joyce tells Emiliana, "You will live like God had planned"

Joyce's prayers are a testament to the power of hope....her story reminds us that hope is not passive. It is active, resilient and rooted in faith.

*Loving God
As we step into this season of Advent,
we recognise that we live in a world
where brokenness is all around us
and where the cries of injustice
echo across the earth.*

*This Advent, may we choose to hope,
knowing that you are at work restoring the world,
bringing justice and healing to all creation.*

**God of hope,
Strengthen our hearts to act in service
of those living with despair. Amen**

Week 2 : Peace

Churches of Christ in Congo is one of Christian Aid's trusted partners in the DRC. Their peace building programme tackles the root causes of domestic and community-based violence. The churches support young adults to become agents of peace. Their work is grounded in faith and driven by compassion.

Their work echoes the message of the angels at Christ's birth: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all"

*Heavenly Father,
You are the God of peace.*

*Where there is division, sow unity.
Where there is hurt, bring healing.
Where there is anger, speak your gentle truth.
Where there is fear, let your perfect love cast it out.*

**God of peace,
strengthen our hearts to act in service
of those living through violence and conflict. Amen.**

Week 3 : Joy

Wilhermine is a farmer, mother of eight
and a community-based psychological support worker.

With Christian Aid funding support she offers care to survivors of rape and gender-based violence.
Her work is emotionally demanding,
yet she speaks of it with deep joy and purpose.
Her commitment is rooted in compassion and faith.
She listens, consoles and walks
alongside women as they begin to heal.

Wilhermine's joy is not superficial - it is the joy of seeing lives restored, dignity reclaimed and hope renewed.

*Creator God,
help us find renewed joy in our service of others
following Wilhermine's example to love without expectations,
offer hope without conditions
and bring blessing both in speech and action.*

**God of joy,
strengthen our hearts to act in service
of those who grieve. Amen.**

Week 4 : Love

Obed works with communities affected by conflict,
displacement and poverty.
Despite the challenges, Obed finds strength in love.

"The people we work with need our assistance; they need our love.
Whenever I meet people in crisis, I feel compassion.
I embody love and turn it into action"

His work is a living expression of Advent love :
compassionate, courageous and committed.

*Dear God,
We thank you for the gift of Jesus, born of your love for the world.
Help us to love each other in word and deed,
through actions that make a difference.
As we celebrate the love that came down at Christmas,
open our eyes and hearts to those who need our support
especially in the DRC.*

**God of love,
strengthen our hearts to act in service
of those whose lives have been damaged by hatred. Amen.**