

CROSSREACH SUNDAY

Let light shine out of darkness



16th Nov
2025

Service Ideas and Sermon Notes

The theme of CrossReach Sunday is light.

In one way or another, many of the people who come to CrossReach for help and support have found themselves in a dark or difficult place, physically, emotionally or mentally. CrossReach works to help bring light into each of these situations.

In this booklet you will find sermon notes on the theme of light prepared the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Rosemary Frew. To go with these notes, Amelia's story shows how CrossReach's support can help to bring new light to a dark situation

We have also suggested some hymns, songs and prayers which could be used to hold a service focused on light and how we, as Gods people, can bring His light into this world.

We have also prepared lesson ideas for your Sunday School to be able to think about the theme of light if they wish. (available separately for download or by post)

Readings suitable for your service

- 2 Corinthians 4: 5-10
- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Malachi 4: 1-2a
- John 8: 12-18
- Matthew 5: 13-16





Sermon Notes

The Moderator of The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
Rt Rev Rosemary Frew

Let light shine out of darkness.

Imagine it's dark. Now, think of the difference a little light can make, be it a torch beam lighting up a dark night or a candle flame lighting up a dark room. Think of how much darker it seems when you switch off the torch or blow out the candle. A little light is a lot of light, a little light can make a lot of difference.

A little light is a comfort, it makes us feel safer. A little light is an aid, it helps us to see what's around us, it can guide us. A little light can make a lot of difference.

Jesus, the light of the world, brought light and love into the lives of so many -

- Light and love and healing for the man considered unclean and ostracized because of leprosy.
- Light and love and friendship for the tax-gatherer whose company no-one wanted.
- Light and love and inclusion for the Samaritan woman with whom the Jews had no dealings.
- Light and love and compassion for the despairing woman who had been bleeding for 12 years.
- Light and love and welcome for the children even the disciples tried to shoo out the way.

Just some of the lives transformed by the light and love of Jesus.



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Jesus calls us to be his lights shining in the darkness, lighting up the darkness with faith, love, joy and compassion; lighting up the darkness by seeking justice, peace and understanding. Yet often we wonder, 'What can I do? What difference can I make?' Remember, even a little light is a lot of light, even a little light can make a big difference. A kind word. A helpful act. A bit of time. A warm welcome. Just noticing someone. A little light can make a big difference.

Imagine attending a night-time event like a big outdoor concert. In the darkness someone switches on the torch on their phone, others follow, and soon the darkness is transformed by a sea of lights. A lot of little lights together can do so much more, make even more of a difference.

Think of this congregation. Think of the things we do together. Our worship, our outreach, our service to those nearby and far away. (Add in local examples.) All our little lights coming together. Making more of a difference.

Crossreach works across Scotland, offering loving care to people of all ages who are in need of a helping hand, supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances. Over 70 different projects, employing 1500 staff, supported by 300 volunteers. Projects that bring light into the darkness of depression, addiction, dementia, homelessness, imprisonment. Projects that lighten the lives of the elderly, those with learning difficulties, families who are struggling.



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Let me tell you about one CrossReach project. In Edinburgh Debbie heads up Threshold Services which gives support at home along with daytime opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. She is a bright light, passionate about her work, wanting the best for all those in her care, excited about new possibilities. She shines with God's love. The lives of those she supports are made brighter and better thanks to her and her team. There's laughter and there's banter. There's understanding of each one, both needs and their potential. There's light and love.

Find CrossReach projects local to you and congregations within your presbytery:

<https://flipbooks.crossreach.org.uk/acrossscotland>

Across Edinburgh, 17 year old Amelia's childhood was dominated by her parents' alcoholism. She grew up in a house built on uncertainty, violence and lies.

She says "I knew in my guts it wasn't right, but they lied to me, reassuring me that they would get it under control, and that "arguments like this happen sometimes in relationships". Because they were so lost, they did a great job at making me lose myself as well.

But now, thanks to counselling and support from CrossReach's Sunflower Garden, Amelia has found herself, she has left her trauma behind and "I finally have faith in my future".

She is moving into her own flat, studying and working part time. Light has shone, replacing her darkness.



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Crossreach invites all of us to join them in their mission. To add our lights to theirs, our love and compassion to theirs, so that together Christ's light and love shines brighter. There are many different ways we can do this.

We can support our local CrossReach service.

<https://flipbooks.crossreach.org.uk/acrossscotland>

We can volunteer - CrossReach offers a wide range of high standard volunteering opportunities, from volunteer receptionists to creche volunteers and counsellors; as well as opportunities to volunteer in their older people services, befriending and supporting with mealtimes.

We can fundraise – Anything from buying CrossReach Christmas cards to taking on a sponsored challenge. It all helps. It all makes a difference.

If your congregation took part in "Light the Path Walk" or held a fundraising breakfast before the service, mention here and give thanks

or

If you are having a fundraising lunch or other event after the service invite everyone to participate.



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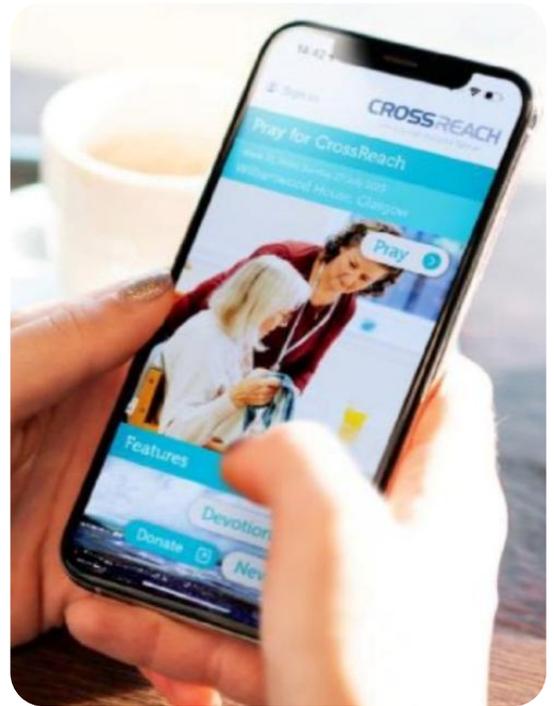
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We can pray – Prayer makes a massive difference. Make use of the Prayer Diary –

- You can request a printed copy from CrossReach
- Use the CrossReach website
- Download their Prayer Diary App
- There's even a Prayer Diary Widget which can be added to our church website. (Get in touch with us and we can help!)

We can donate - Every gift CrossReach receives is used to enhance and enrich the lives of people in Scotland who are going through tough or troubling times.

This CrossReach Sunday join CrossReach in their mission, add your light and love, so that together Christ's love shines brighter.



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A Prayer for CrossReach Sunday

The Moderator of The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
Rt Rev Rosemary Frew

Let light shine out of darkness.

We pray for the work of CrossReach
For the different projects across Scotland
For the staff
For the volunteers
For those who give generously
For all the lives that are touched
For all the lives that are changed by the light of God's love

Let light shine out of darkness.

We pray for (specific local service)
<https://flipbooks.crossreach.org.uk/acrossscotland>

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Let light shine out of darkness.

We pray for the church of Jesus Christ
Worldwide and local
Shining light where there is darkness
Praying for love where there is hate
Praying for peace where there is turmoil
Praying for justice where there is oppression
Praying for hope where there is despair

Let light shine out of darkness.

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We pray for this congregation
(Specific local prayers)

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Let light shine out of darkness.

We pray for one another
That we may be Christ's lights shining
In our homes
For our families
In our community
With our friends
A lot of little lights
Little lights making a difference

We ask this in Jesus' name
Amen

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Hymns for CrossReach Sunday

All hymns from Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise (Church Hymnary 4th Edition), unless indicated

Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus, shine) - 448

God, whose almighty word - 112

Immortal, invisible God only wise - 132

I heard the voice of Jesus say, - 540

Love is the touch of intangible joy - 115

Beauty for broneness - 259

