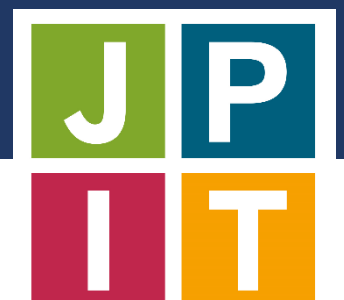




# General Election Prayer Guide 2024

Produced by the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church





The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) helps the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. Its work is guided by Six Hopes for society, focused around the areas of **poverty, refugees, the environment, the economy, peace, and politics**.

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# Called to Pray

As we navigate the complexities of the election period, we must remember that prayer and intercession are essential parts of our discipleship and role in serving our communities locally and globally. This period affords us the opportunity to seek discernment and guidance, and to prioritise the things that Christ values most. This prayer guide is written to help Christian leaders and communities engage in intentional listening, both individually and collectively, as we seek God's presence and direction during this pivotal time.

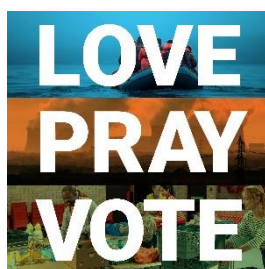
In the first section, there are a range of thematic prayers that can be used for individual prayer or as part of services and gatherings.

In section two, there are a variety of prayers focused on individuals in our communities that we might want to pay particular attention to, written with JPIT's six hopes, our hopes, in mind. Feel free to use these as individual prayers or in gathered settings. These prayers are by no means exhaustive but can be used as a starting place for recommitting our efforts to listen to the Spirit, praying for the general election, and those we are called to serve.

As we draw close to the general election, JPIT continues to provide points in the day when we can pray collectively through our Stay and Pray daily prayers. We release these on our social media platforms.

Finally, in this season of prayerful listening, we encourage those praying to message us on social media or via email so that we may pray together. Feel free to share the daily Stay and Pray posts.

**The Joint Public Issues Team**





# Thematic Prayers

## Prayer for Discernment

Gracious God, as we approach this election period, we acknowledge the importance of discerning Your will amidst the noise and confusion of political discourse. In the midst of political debates and competing ideologies, grant us the gift of humility. Help us to listen with open hearts and minds to those whose opinions differ from our own. Grant us childlike curiosity to see beyond our own perspectives and to seek the common good above our individual interests. Help us discern the values that honour Your kingdom and guide us in making decisions that reflect Your justice and compassion. Amen.

## Prayer for Unity

Holy Spirit, in a time when division seems to repel unity like two stubborn north poles of a magnet, we ask for the strength to seek harmony within our communities and our nation. Guide us. Help our true South find our neighbours' true North, providing balm to those wounded by political strife and mending the broken bridges that so easily separate us. Empower us to find common ground rooted in Your Cruciform love, recognising the dignity of each and every individual. Amen.

## Prayer for Justice

God of justice, You have called us to advocate for the oppressed and to speak out against injustice. In this election season, we pray for a society where all are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their social status or identity. Give us the courage to confront systems of oppression and to work tirelessly for the liberation of those who are marginalised and oppressed. May Your kingdom of righteousness and peace be established in our midst. Amen.

## Prayer for Peace

Prince of peace, You have called us to be peacemakers in the UK and in a wider world torn apart by conflict and strife. We pray for peace during this election period, both within our nation and globally. Calm the fears and anxieties that grip our hearts and minds, driving us to protectionism and violence, and fill us with Your perfect peace that surpasses all understanding. May Your peace reign in our hearts and in the world. Amen.

## Prayer for Repentance

God of mercy, we come to You with all humility. In this election period, we recognise our fallibility, imperfect theology, and finite knowledge. We acknowledge that no human institution or political party fully and perfectly represents the entirety of Your Kingdom. Forgive us for when we have allowed pride to blind us to our own limitations. This day we pray, grant us the joy that sent You to the cross and the continual experience to be a resurrected people for Your name's sake. Amen.

# Prayers for Individuals

## A prayer for voters

Loving God, we face a choice. Be with us as we consider the options weigh the arguments and assess the claims and the candidates. But also prompt us to listen: to the voices on the margins to the cry of the earth and to those who reach a different conclusion to us. God, we pray that you would stimulate our minds stir our hearts and sanctify our choosing. Help us also to remember your command to love our neighbours both during and after this election.

## Prayer for Those Involved in the Election Process

God of all peoples, we thank you for those who have responded to the call to serve in the electoral process and we lift up to You: the candidates, campaign staff, volunteers, and election officials. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and a spirit of service as they fulfil their responsibilities. Protect them from cynicism, corruption, and undue influence. May their efforts be guided by a sincere desire to serve the common good and uphold the principles of democracy. Give them strength and resilience in the face of challenges, temptations, and fear. Amen.

## Prayer for Political Leaders

Leader of all leaders, we pray for those who hold positions of leadership and authority in our government and institutions. Grant them wisdom to govern with justice, compassion, and humility. May they be mindful of their responsibility to serve all people, not some, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. Give them courage to stand up for truth, righteousness, and peace, even in the face of opposition, and to resist the temptation of self-interest. Surround them with wise counsellors and advisors who will guide them in making decisions for all citizens. Amen.

## Prayer for the Vulnerable in Society

Christ, You have a bias for the poor, the oppressed, the refugee, and the marginalised. We lift up to You those who are most vulnerable in our society: the poor, the immigrant, the refugee, the elderly, and those living with violence or the threat of it. Protect them from harm and exploitation. Provide for their needs and grant them access to resources and opportunities that honour the dignity You have given each and every one of us. Give us hearts of compassion and generosity of spirit to advocate for their rights and work towards a more just and equitable society. Amen.

## Prayer for Christian Communities

Christ Jesus, we thank You for the gift of being Your people. In the community of Your embrace, we find support, encouragement, and fellowship. Remind us that Your death and resurrection over comes our political differences, bless Your people with unity, love, and the power of Your Spirit. Help us to be faithful witnesses to Your kingdom values in our words and actions, to lay down our lives as You have laid down Yours. Guide our ministers, deacons, lay leaders, and siblings in their roles as agents of Your grace and reconciliation in the world. Empower us to be beacons of hope and light in our neighbourhoods and communities, shining forth Your love to all who are in need. Amen.

## Further resources

### Voter Registration Champions

This new initiative aims to equip local churches to increase democratic participation through registering people to vote, providing information about the need to have appropriate photo ID, and encouraging people to vote on polling day.

### Hosting a hustings

Holding an election meeting gives members of the public the chance to listen to and ask questions of the candidates. Churches and community organisations can host these events as a public service, to support the democratic process, to facilitate public debate and as a contribution to the common good. Our guidance will help you to organise safe and successful events which comply with the law.

### Hopes for manifestos

Explore the policy changes that could make a difference across JPIT's Six Hopes for Society. In our podcast series from 2023, experts from the team talk through some of the key issues.

### Engage with your candidates about poverty

As part of the Let's End Poverty campaign, we want every candidate standing at the next General Election to be asked what they plan to do to tackle poverty. Get involved by reaching out to the candidates standing in your area. Find toolkits and training to help you at: [letsendpoverty.co.uk/candidates/](https://letsendpoverty.co.uk/candidates/)



### Politics in the Pulpit?

Each week on our lectionary-based preaching podcast, we welcome a different guest to discuss the political dimensions present in the set Bible readings, and reflect on how they connect with the week's current news and our calling to be justice seekers.

### Small group resources

Use our free courses to dig deeper into issues including poverty, the economy, politics, and how change happens.

Find all these and more at [jpit.uk/election](https://jpit.uk/election)

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