



The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 May 2024

REPLY TO HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS LETTER

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

May it please Your Majesty We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects convened in General Assembly, have received with pleasure Your Majesty's most gracious letter to us. We greatly value Your Majesty's continuing pledge to maintain the historic rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland.

The appointment of His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh as Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to our General Assembly has been wholeheartedly welcomed. His Grace's deep affection for Scotland as well as his sound knowledge of the Church of Scotland and indeed the General Assembly is truly appreciated by us all. The heartfelt words of his opening address were warmly received and lifted the Assembly. We have also been grateful for the presence and participation of Her Grace, The Duchess of Edinburgh at many events during the week and for visits to more remote parts of Scotland.

We also wish to convey our continued concern for the health of both Your Majesty and Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. Please be assured of our ongoing prayers for both your recoveries and for the whole Royal Family who, like so many others, are bearing the strain and anxiety of loved ones going through cancer treatment. Your Majesty's and HRH The Princess of Wales' openness about your cancer diagnoses has been an inspiration, encouragement and comfort to countless others walking the same path.

We greatly value the wisdom of your words about creating the space amongst one another so that we can with respect and kindness, speak to and treat each other as we would wish to be treated. Such space enables us to perceive with heart and mind the God-given human dignity of the other person. Your commendation of our endeavours to uphold the values of the Kingdom of God as we seek to promote justice and peace for all people is greatly appreciated.

We thank you too for your recognition of the huge contribution of congregations across Scotland and beyond who are tirelessly working to serve all people but especially the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society. In these challenging times for the Kirk your prayers for us as well as your words of encouragement, hope and peace mean so much.

Finally, we commend Your Majesty and Her Majesty The Queen to the unfailing grace and protection of Almighty God, and we pray that God will bestow favour upon Your Majesty, as you continue to reign over us.

Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal servants.

THE MINISTERS, ELDERS AND DEACONS OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CONVENEED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Signed in our name, in our presence and at our appointment by the Right Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly on this 22nd day of May 2024.

Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson
Moderator of the General Assembly

Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson
121 George Street • Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
Tel: 0131 225 5722 • Email: moderator@churchofscotland.org.uk • Web: www.churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC011353