Worship 27 November 2026 | English article

Glasgow and Bethlehem to Pray Together Live as Advent Service Links Twin Cities

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Prayers from the Heart of Glasgow to the Heart of Bethlehem"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

On Saturday 28 November at 2:30pm GMT, St Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral in Glasgow hosts "Prayers from the Heart of Glasgow to the Heart of Bethlehem", an ecumenical Advent service organised by Friends of the Holy Land. Conditions permitting, a live link with the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, will let worshippers in Glasgow pray together in real time with Christians in the Holy Land. The service is free, walk-ins are welcome, and it will be streamed live on YouTube - so anyone in the UK and beyond can join in.

The idea is simple, and its reach is long: two cities, one prayer. Glasgow and Bethlehem are twin cities, and this is the fifth year their Christians have linked their Advent prayers across the distance.

The St Aloysius' College choir will sing, and a reception in Eyre Hall, supported by the Lord Provost's Office, follows the service. Christians of different traditions will be there together, and the invitation is open to everyone, whatever their background.

The service begins tommorow at 2:30pm GMT, and the doors open to everyone. No ticket is needed, and no one will be turned away at the door.

Glasgow And Bethlehem: Twin Cities Praying As One

The service is an act of solidarity with the living Christian communities of Bethlehem and the Holy Land - people whose faith continues in the very place where the Christmas story began. That is the heart of it: not a concert, not a conference, but one city's Christians reaching across the miles to stand with another's.

That is also what makes the live link matter. It is one thing to pray for Christians far away; it is another to hear their voices in the same hour, in the same service. Conditions on the day permitting, the link with Beit Jala will do exactly that - Glasgow and Bethlehem, praying in the same moment, each able to hear the other.

Five years of linked services have turned a one-off gesture into a tradition. Following four previous years of services linked between the two cities, this year's gathering offers a personal expression of the friendship between Glasgow and its twin city - a friendship that Advent, with its themes of waiting and light in the dark, seems made to carry.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1222.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) Hoy: El Vaticano nombra tres comisarios para los Heraldos del Evangelio tras siete años de intervención
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1225.html

(Portuguese) Cristo Redentor celebra o Dia de Ação de Graças com procissão de agradecimentos na Sala da Gratidão
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1226.html

(Hindi) Yuunaaiteda Krishchiyana Phorama Ne Piiema Modii Se Kii Apiila, Deshabhara Men Shaantipuurna Krisamasa Sunishchita Karen
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/hi/news-1227.html