

Wave of Prayer Service February 2021

Welcome and gathering

We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.

John Stott, theologian

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service. We gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world and for the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. We gather to commit ourselves afresh to upholding our unity in prayer in the year ahead.

Call to worship

God, your name is known everywhere;
all over the earth people praise you.
Your right hand is full of goodness.
Psalm 48:10

Lord of all the earth,
we come to worship with thankful hearts.
Let us praise his name together. Amen

Opening hymn: God is working his purpose out

Prayer of preparation

With thankfulness and love we take our place in the family of Mothers' Union worldwide.

Open our eyes to the significance of relationship with members worldwide; with those known to us or not.

With support and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers across the world.

Strengthen our commitment to those with whom we share vision and values; wherever we may live.

In unity and love we link hands with our worldwide family of God.

Unite us in worship; build us in service, as together we seek to share your love.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Confession

**Merciful Lord,
who died that we may be accepted
into the family of God,
forgive us for the times when our love
for each other is strained,
when the bonds between us are loose.
Forgive us when we choose to ignore
the joys of shared relationship
and focus on weakness and strife.
Help us to change our selfish ways
that we may love God and his children
with all our hearts. Amen**

Absolution

May our heavenly Father open wide his arms
in loving forgiveness and grace.
May we know the joy of restored relationship
with God and his people. **Amen**

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3:14-22

For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. ¹⁶ I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, ¹⁷ and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, ¹⁸ so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. ¹⁹ Yes, may you come to know his love—although it can never be fully known—and so be completely filled with the very nature of God. ²⁰ To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: ²¹ to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of Mark

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, O Lord.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

²⁹ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” ³¹ The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn: Brother sister let me serve you

Thanksgiving and intercessions

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love.

Colossians 2:2

As we come to give thanks for Mothers' Union Worldwide, and particularly for our link dioceses, may God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

Symbolic lighting of candles

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise for the fellowship and prayer support that we have through our links with Mundri in South Sudan; Madi & West Nile in Uganda; Isikwuatu in Nigeria; and Seoul in South Korea.

We thank you for the times when we have built relationship through sharing and visits.
We thank you for the times when lack of news has driven us to pray and intercede.

We give thanks for the blessing of being united in prayer with Mundri in South Sudan; Madi & West Nile in Uganda; Isikwuatu in Nigeria; and Seoul in South Korea

We pledge to continue to remember our sisters and brothers in prayer.

Loving Lord, help us to appreciate the blessings of being united together in the family of God. Let us ever be ready to intercede for each other for God's assistance and protection. May God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

We pray for all members. May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging them and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them so they may work to your praise and glory. Amen

Intercessions

Eternal God of hope and peace who sent Your son to be us in human form, we offer our prayer in His name for the Mothers' Union here and everywhere they serve their communities. As we serve the needs in our own way, may we do so as Jesus showed us with grace and humility and above all with love.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for MU members working in this country and throughout the world who are working in difficult places: including our hospitals and nursing homes, we particularly pray for places of poverty or injustice, in places of war and oppression, in prisons and in places where the knowledge of your love is so desperately needed.

As this pandemic continues to strike the whole world reaching those who were already suffering, from lack of the most basic needs, shelter, warmth and clean water causing more sickness and grief, we pray that your Spirit will guide us and fill us with compassion and love for all for our brothers and sisters around the world.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those in authority in our nation and in the world. May they learn from The Way of our Lord Jesus Christ that true power is to feed the poor and the hungry to make a home for the homeless and to offer comfort and hospitality to the broken hearted.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

As we gather on Zoom on this virtual platform as a Diocesan and Worldwide MU we pray for our cities, towns and villages, we pray for our and each other's communities. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's Family table. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who suffer in mind body and spirit. May they know your presence with them and know the comfort and security of your love.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of past and present, and the future, we celebrate and give you thanks for your faithfulness through the years. We commit ourselves afresh to your purposes for the future. May we continue to enrich family life in all its forms for future generations. This and all our prayers we offer in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Mothers' Union Prayer

**Loving Lord,
we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to
share your love through the encouragement,
strengthening and support
of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit,
may we be united in prayer and worship,
and, in love and service,
reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen**

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

**All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.

2 Corinthians 5:19

As we share God's peace together
we also reach out in peace to those
with whom we are linked across the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you:
and also with you.

We offer each other a sign of peace.

Final blessing

Lord, as we have celebrated
your goodness together,
may our unity deepen and grow.
We are the family of God.
His love draws us in to himself
and out to one another.
**We reach out as your hands
across the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

We say the Grace together