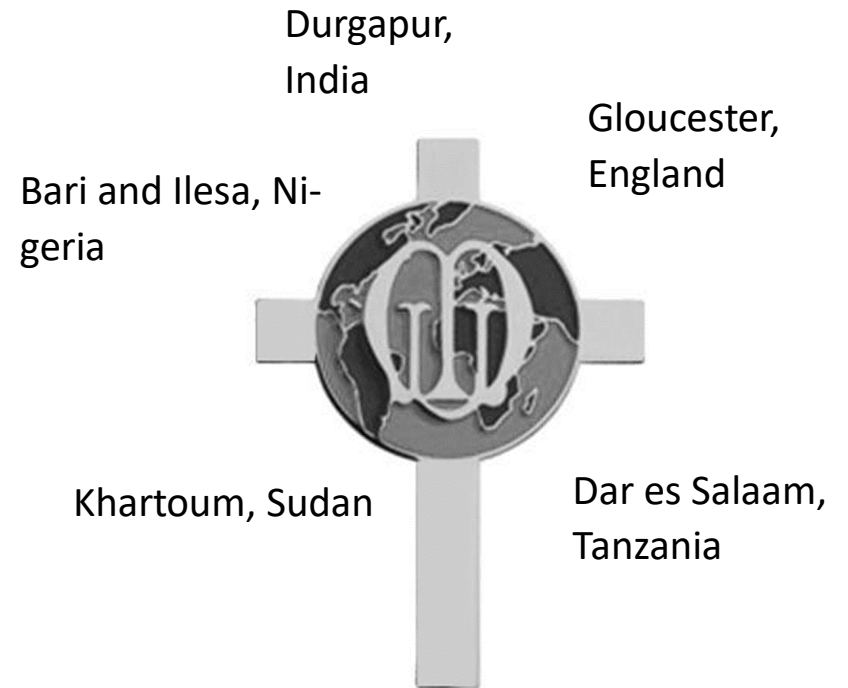




Wave of Prayer

3rd-5th September 2025



Mary Sumner 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.

Setting: All seated in a semi-circle, if possible, facing central table with MU symbol; a MU candle and six others/night lights; sufficient Bibles. Hymns may be sung unaccompanied or read in a way which is comfortable to those present. Similarly, the Psalms. Allow a few moments of silence after lighting each candle.

Readings: Isaiah 55:6-11; James 2:14-17; Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms: 138:1-8; 148:7-end

- Hymns:**
1. All Creatures of our God and King
 2. Take my life & let it be...
 3. I, the Lord of sea and sky
 4. To God be the glory...
 5. In Christ there is no East or West
 6. Father hear the prayer we offer
 7. New every morning

Please feel free to shorten or lengthen any section to suit your situation.

Leader: As we gather today, in the Diocese of Gloucester we worship alongside fellow Mothers' Union members in our link Dioceses of Bari and Ilesa, Nigeria; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Durgapur, North India; Khartoum, Sudan. We celebrate the lives of MU members everywhere, facing similar challenges, seeking to meet these with courage and determination; to care for their families and communities with compassion and love.

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Thank you to Pauline Farman for putting together the service sheet and hymns for our Wave of Prayer service.

in the name of Jesus, our Lord and example, who knew how each person needed to be loved. **Amen** (*World Day of Prayer, 2024*)

Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Additional/Substitution prayers:** Lord God, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and to follow Christ. Send us out to work and witness freely, gratefully and hopefully, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the honour and glory of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Holy Spirit of God, fill us with your power, that in all we do and say, we may show forth the love of God and proclaim the Good News of the kingdom to the peoples of the world. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Acknowledgements:**

**MU 'Prayer Diary' 2024 and 2025  
MU 'United in Prayer & Worship' & MU Website  
Mission Praise and Anglican Hymns Old & New  
World Day of Prayer, 2024.**

Thus says the Lord, He who created you O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned and the flame will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. (*Isaiah 43:1-3a*)

**Leader:** *We light a candle and give thanks for the wonder of creation; praying for positive action in caring for our World.*

**All: The Lord's prayer.**

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

**All: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.**

There is a time to sow and a time to reap.

**All: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.**

The Lord gives seed for planting and food to eat.

**All: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.**

**Reader 1: Isaiah 55:6-11**

**Hymn: 1. All creatures of our God and King**

**Leader:** We begin our worship praising God for the beauty of the natural World – His creation; celebrating, for us, this season of harvest, but recognising that with rising temperatures, fire, floods, hurricanes and drought, an ample harvest is increasingly difficult right across the world. Whilst it is challenging for us, it is catastrophic to communities who are solely dependent on the land for survival. We pray for World Leaders to work together to find ways to reduce and eliminate the damage humans continue to cause to Your creation. And we each strive to reduce our own carbon footprint.

**Reader 2:** *We light a candle to give thanks for the Christian witness of the Mothers' Union members in the **Diocese of Bari**.*

Let us join our prayers with members in the **Diocese of Bari** northern Nigeria, who cherish their local community with vocational training and literacy classes; marriage guidance and support for parents. Activities include Bible study, prayer and fellowship meetings, outreach, income and skills development programmes and support for the vulnerable and needy. They work closely with the Women's Guild and Girls' Guild.

We pray for the Diocese of Bari: Father in heaven we express our gratitude and praise that MU members in the Diocese of Bari can declare like the Psalmist: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid? **Amen.**

**Hymn: 2. Take my life and let it be...**

**Psalm 148:7-end**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding.

**All: You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds.**

Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth young men and women, old men and children.

**All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens;**

And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants of Israel, the people close to his heart.

**All: Praise the Lord.**

*As we light a candle we give thanks for the work and witness of the Mothers' Union in the **Diocese of Khartoum**.*

**Reader 1:** Set in a society devastated by civil unrest and war, MU members run literacy/economic courses for women and girls who, because of social and cultural practices are discouraged from getting an education, thus giving women and girls opportunities to strive against gender disparity (including the practice of FGM). The MU run classes in handicrafts, making and tie-dyeing clothes, enabling them to set up small businesses, so helping themselves and their families. Also training with other organisations about women's rights. There is a ministry of prayer, pastoral visiting and evangelism.

A prayer for Khartoum:

**Comfort and sustain your people. Open the paths of peace and search for safety; Open your paths of Peace, Lord. Bring peace and stability to the land. Lord our hearts are deeply troubled by reports of widespread violence, displacement in Sudan. We pray for the civil war to cease and economic stability to return, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: New every morning is the love...**

**Closing Prayer:** God of Unity, you bear with us in all our difficulties. When we are struggling to get along with one another in love, you are willing and able to help us. We ask you to free us from our sins so that we can release one another from the tensions and conflicts that create disunity. Heal your church wherever we are divided, that we may know how to bring the good news of your grace and love into the world by knowing how to behave with everyone we meet. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and example, who knew how each person needed to be loved. **Amen** (*World Day of Prayer, 2024*)

**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**

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*As we light a candle we give thanks for the work and witness of MU members in the **Diocese of Ilesa**.*

Reader 1: We join in prayer with the Mothers' Union members in Ilesa, Nigeria whose projects and activities include: Supporting widows and the less privileged; organising literacy classes; income generating activities and empowerment programmes; community health education as well as offering prayer and fellowship. They work closely with the Women's Guild and youth organisations, promoting family life and education.

A prayer for the Diocese of Ilesa: Father, in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that MU members of Ilesa can declare like David the King of Israel: 'Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory and the majesty; for everything that is in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honour come from you. In your hand are power and might, and it is in your hand to make great and give strength to all. And now our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

Amen.

Psalm – 138: 1-8. I give thanks, O Lord.....

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer.

Be Kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

Reader 3: *We light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness of MU members in the **Diocese of Dar es Salaam**.*

We join in prayer with the **Diocese of Dar es Salaam** in Tanzania where MU membership is one of the largest in our organisation with over 815,000 members and counting. Members are involved in caring for those in need from collecting money and items to sell to support vulnerable children with school fees and helping widows and people living with HIV/AIDS. Working with the Church & Community Mobilisation Bible, they lead study groups and with churches to encourage literacy to enable them to transform their communities; inspiring them to become active and vocal in local, regional and national issues; empowering women; working on countering gender-based violence (including FGM) and prompting the authorities to care for and protect vulnerable children.

Reader 1: What does it profit my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works is dead. *(James 2: 14-17.)*

We pray for the people of Dar es Salaam: O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Christian witness of MU members in the **Diocese of Durgapur**.*

Reader 4: We join in prayer with the MU in Durgapur, North India who are affiliated with the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service where members live out their faith with vocational skills training; campaigning against gender-based violence; leading marriage preparation classes; and health awareness programmes; supporting members of the community, particularly women and children who have traditionally been marginalised, working to address gender inequality, whilst themselves facing religious intolerance and prejudice.

We pray for the Diocese of Durgapur: Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that members of the Mothers' Union and Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in the Diocese of Durgapur can declare like the Psalmist: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen (*Psalm 72:18-19*)

Hymn: To God be the Glory....

Leader: 'We must make Christ our dearest friend, daily and hourly. On Him we lean for comfort, peace and strength in anxiety, sorrow or joy.' (*Mary Sumner*).

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*We light a candle to give thanks for the work and witness of MU members in the **Diocese of Gloucester**.*

**Reader 1:** We join in prayer with members across the Diocese of Gloucester who provide practical support for their local communities: Away from it all (AFIA) holidays for deprived families; provide coaches for the Family Haven and Churn Project to enable families to enjoy a day away; support children who would otherwise miss out on educational outings. Make bags to return deceased patients' personal possessions to relatives; knit cardigans, hats and blankets for premature and still-born babies; donate toiletries and toddler clothing for those using the Family Haven; support the Clewer Initiative fighting modern-day slavery; the MU Stand-Up to Abuse campaign; GARAS for Refugees & Asylum seekers and take Open the Book into local Primary Schools.

**Reader 2:** Father in heaven, we give thanks and praise that Mothers' Union members here in the Diocese of Gloucester enjoy the political freedom to follow your call to go out to make disciples of all the world; renew us with your holy grace and sustain us by your mighty power through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen**

**Isaiah 6: 1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died... 'Here am I. Send me'.

**Hymn: In Christ there is no East or West.**

**All:** 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**