

# Wave of Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022-2024

**Gloucester**  
England



**Bari & Ilesa**  
Nigeria

**Dar es Salaam**  
Tanzania

**Khartoum**  
Sudan

**Dugapur**  
India

## **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 this spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen*

**Setting:** Table with a cloth, MU motif & candle: members seated in surrounding circle (if possible); A vase of flowers; sufficient copies of Bibles; Hymn books/sheets; a tray with six night lights; matches.

**Introduction:** Women everywhere - North, South, East, West face many of the same burdens: **Inequality; Gender-based violence (including FGM); Modern-day slavery; War and Displacement; Climate change; Poverty.** Mothers' Union, working together across the world seeks to address these with compassion and justice, whilst celebrating with joy and love: **Equality; Freedom; Peace and Harmony; Families and Service.**

If no music available hymns may be sung unaccompanied or read either in unison or antiphonally.

The Psalms may be similarly read; or to suit your situation.

**Readings:** Exodus 2: 1-10. John 4:1-30. Matthew 15:30-31.  
John 2: 1-11. Luke 10:30-37 Luke 15:11-32  
Matthew 13:3-9 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

**Psalms:** 113. 119:169 - 176. 67. 25:1 - 7

**Hymns:** *Be still in the presence of the Lord.  
To God be the Glory  
Love Divine, all loves excelling.  
When I needed a neighbour  
To Thee O Lord our hearts we raise  
Brother, sister, let me serve you.*

\*\*After the lighting of each candle allow a few moments of silence.

It is intended that each section to be approximately 10 minutes. It is possible to shorten or lengthen this, depending on your situation, by omitting hymns or prayers, or by adding ones from the additions in the back cover or your own particular favourites.

**Leader:** The world belongs to God.

**All:** The Earth and all its people.

**Leader:** How good it is, how wonderful.

**All:** To live together in unity.

**Leader:** Love and faith come together.

**All:** Justice and Peace join hands.

**Leader:** We, in the Diocese of Gloucester, join with our sisters and brothers in Bari & Ilesa, Nigeria: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Durgapur, North India: Khartoum, Sudan & South Sudan.

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

**Hymn:** Be still in the presence of the Lord.

**Reading:** Exodus 2: 1 – 10. Moses

**Leader:** We give thanks for the countless number of un-named, anonymous women, like the mother of Moses, who, over the centuries, have nourished and protected their children; who work tirelessly so that they may grow up and flourish.

**Psalm:** 113.

**Praise the Lord, ye servants: O praise the name of the Lord.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord: from this time forth for evermore.**

**The Lord's name is praised: from the rising up of the sun unto the going down of the same.**

**The Lord is high above all heathen: and his glory above the heavens.**

**Who is like unto the Lord our God, that hath his dwelling so high: and yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth?**

**He taketh up the simple out of the dust: and lifteth the poor out of the mire;**

**That he may set him with the princes: even with the princes of his people.**

**He maketh the barren women to keep house: and to be a joyful mother of children.**

**All:** Living Father, we thank you for our mothers. Help us to share your love and compassion with families everywhere. Amen.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for mothers everywhere.*

**Reading: John 4: 1- 30. The Woman at the well**

**Leader:** Jesus challenged many social customs. He demonstrates to us that this woman is created and loved by God; He does not treat her as an outcast, nor condemns her, but meets her in her need and gives her life.

**Reading: Matthew 15:30-31**

**Leader:** We pray that governments will recognise that disabled people are also affected by domestic abuse and ensure that legislation is so worded to be inclusive.

**All:** 'Nobody cares what happens.... the neighbours know but they act like nothing is going on.... how can they hear it and pretend like they don't.... they're just as bad as him... they could do something, but they don't'.

**Leader:** We ask for strength to Listen, Observe and Act when we fear that anyone, particularly a child, is in danger.

**All:** God give us insight to recognise violence in all its forms and courage to name it, speaking out for justice. We ask for compassion for the vulnerable and grace and strength to stand with them. Send your Holy Spirit to bless us with a prayerful heart, and power to breathe peace, transforming the world. Amen.

**Leader:** Love matters. Our love for God motivates and challenges us to keep this command: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind: and your neighbour as yourself.' (Luke 10:27).

**Psalm: 119: 169-176.**

Let my cry reach you, O God; that I may understand your word.  
Let my pleading reach you; that I may be saved by your promise.  
Let my lips proclaim your praise, for you teach me your statutes.  
Let my tongue sing your praises, for your laws are justice itself.  
Let your hand be ready to help me: I have chosen your precepts.  
I long for your salvation, O God: your law is my delight.  
Let me live to praise you; let your decrees be my help.  
I have strayed like a lost sheep, but have not forgotten your laws.  
Come, seek out your servant.

**Hymn: To God be the glory!**

*As we light a candle, we pray for an end to all violence and abuse.*

**Reading: John 2:1 – 11. The Wedding at Cana**

**Leader:** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal, and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. *(1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)*

**Reader:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who gave marriage to be a source of blessing to mankind, we thank you for the joys of family life. May we know your presence and peace in our homes; fill them with your love, and use them for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Psalm 67**

**God be merciful unto us and bless us: and make his face shine upon us,  
That your ways may be known on earth: your saving power among all  
nations.**

**Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

**Let the nations be glad and sing: for you judge the peoples with integrity  
and govern the nations upon earth.**

**Let the peoples praise you O God: let all the peoples praise you.**

**Then the earth will yield its fruitfulness: and God our God, will bless us.**

**God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him.**

**Hymn: Love Divine all loves excelling.**

*As we light a candle, we give You thanks and we pray for all those  
who have entered into marriage; engaged couples; those  
contemplating marriage and those in long-term, loving relationships.*

**Reading: Luke 10: 30-37. The Good Samaritan**

**Leader:** Lord God, help us to love one another because of our differences, not despite them, and to rejoice in each person's individual part of the whole picture. Help us to grow and work together, spurring one another on towards love and good deeds so that your will, not ours, will be done, and your kingdom will come in this place. **Amen.**

**Psalm: 25: 1 – 7**

**To thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Oh my God in thee I trust, let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

**Let none that wait for thee be put to shame;**

**Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**Make me to know thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.**

**Lead me in thy truth and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation; for thee I wait all the day long.**

**Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!**

**Hymn: When I needed a neighbour.**

**All: Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.**

**Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.**

**Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.**

**Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.**

**Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body.**

**Christ has no body now on earth but yours.**

*As we light a candle, we pray for travellers; refugees and those fleeing war and violence: we give thanks for all those who help, support and care for them.*

**Reading: Matthew 13:3 – 9. The Parable of the Sower**

**Leader:** Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Reader:** God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Hymn: To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise**

**All: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Reader:** Across the world those who have so much must give to those who have so little. What does it cost? A compassionate heart; a pair of hands; a little time.

With hands and hearts let us stop world poverty; let us stop world hunger; let us stop world GREED. United by one voice, we speak out against the power of unequal wealth, and crime of ignorance and the shame of world exploitation. **Amen.**

**Leader:** While on earth, Jesus championed the cause of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised. When Jesus ascended into heaven he passed this work onto us (*John 14:12*) in sending the Holy Spirit he gave the spiritual resources to carry it out. This gift, which turned weak and fearful disciples into those who acted with boldness throughout the known world, is freely available to us. As we pray and work for justice and mercy, we know that we have been commissioned by Christ who is continually interceding for us; and we have the power of the Spirit in all our endeavours.

*As we light a candle, we pray for Good stewardship of the World's resources and the abolition of Poverty, Hunger, and GREED.*

*As we light a candle we pray for ourselves: for Mothers' Union members here in Gloucestershire and in our Link Dioceses of Bari & Ilesa; Dar es Salaam; Durgapur; Khartoum. and for our families and friends.*

**Reading: Luke 15:11 – 32 The Prodigal**

**Leader:** Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world so that we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**All: The Mothers' Union Prayer**

**Reader:** Make me a builder of bridges, Lord! Help me to listen more and talk less; to learn rather than give advice; to receive when I would rather give; to acknowledge that I do not have all the truth; to face rejection with with humility; and ever more deeply to go on loving in Jesus' name **Amen**

**All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: Brother, sister let me serve you.**

**Leader:** Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. 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.**

### ***Additional/substitution prayers***

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (*Romans 12:2*).

Dear Father in heaven let us be peacemakers: more ready to call people friends than enemies: more ready to trust than to mistrust: more ready to love than to hate: more ready to respect than despise: more ready to serve than be served: more ready to absorb evil than to pass it on: Dear Father in heaven, let us be more like Christ. Amen.

Father, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and to follow Christ, to face the future with him, seeking his special purpose for our lives. Send us out now to work and witness freely, gratefully and full of hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the honour and glory of your name. Amen.

### ***Acknowledgements:***

MU friends who contributed their favourite hymn, prayer, reading, etc.

**Iona Abbey Worship Book. Iona Community Wild Goose Publications**

**MU Prayer Diary for 16 days of Activism 2021**

**MU Women at Prayer. MarshallPickering. Editor: Rachel Stowe**

**MU 'Connected' Autumn 2021.**

**MU 'United in prayer & Worship'**

**MU 'The Prayers we breathe'**

**MU Prayer Diary 2022.**

**The ASB 1980 SPCK Cambridge University Press**

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord.**

The Holy One, is here.  
Come, bow before him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord,  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord,  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord,  
is moving in this place.

**Love divine, all loves excelling.**

joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

**To God be the glory! Great things he hath done;**

so loved he the world that he gave us his Son;  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice:  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory; great things he hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Refrain.*

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Refrain.*

**When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?**

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

*Refrain.*

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

*Refrain.*

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there?

*Refrain.*

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?

*Refrain.*

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,  
wherever you travel, I'll be there.

*Refrain.*

**To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise**

in hymns of adoration;  
to thee bring sacrifice of praise  
with shouts of exultation;  
bright robes of gold the fields adorn,  
the hills with joy are ringing,  
the valleys stand so thick with corn  
that even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,  
thy bounteous hand confessing,  
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay  
the first-fruits of thy blessing:  
by thee our souls are truly fed  
with gifts of grace supernal;  
thou who dost give us earthly bread,  
give us the bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day,  
and often toil seems dreary;  
but labour ends with sunset ray,  
and rest comes for the weary:  
may we, the angel-reaping o'er,  
stand at the last accepted,  
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore  
to garner bright elected.

O blesséd is that land of God,  
where saints abide for ever;  
where golden fields spread far and broad,  
where flows the crystal river:  
the strains of all its holy throng  
with our today are blending;  
thrice blesséd is that harvest-song  
which never hath an ending.

**Brother, sister, let me serve you.**

let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.