

Welcome

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.

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 (may be said)

1 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

**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, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. ¹⁶I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, ¹⁷and 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, ¹⁸so 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.

²⁰To 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: ²¹to 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.

EASTERN ZAMBIA.

Mothers' Union in Eastern Zambia is emerging from the Pandemic and they are once again holding some meetings under certain restrictions, much like branches around the world. Chipata is the provincial administration town of the eastern province of Zambia. St Barnabas is the central parish, with St Agnes, St Mary's, St Augustine and St Phillip's having smaller congregations. So, Mothers' Union has a very active area: visiting the sick in their homes and in hospitals, visiting prisons, pastoral visits to members and non-members of Mothers' Union and the church, all in support of the

parish priest. The Mothers' Union meets every week for worship and prayer, bible study and in addition they hold teaching sessions in knitting, cooking, sewing and on health issues. They are also encouraging young families to join. There is a concern that groups across the country are challenged by decline in attendance, but the Mothers' Union are committed and believe that through prayer, planned action and trusting in God, they will grow and continue to support families in Zambia.

We pray for all Mothers' Union members in Eastern Zambia and for their Diocesan President Catherine Mabeta.

Loving Lord we thank you for all members and their families in Eastern Zambia bless them and the work they do in your name now and in the future. Amen,

Silence for reflection

MOMBASA in Kenya.

In this wave of prayer, we pray for Diocesan President Rev. Martha Mwaro and the Link Correspondent Phoebe Maina who is the All Women Co-ordinator, from the Anglican Church of Kenya in Mombasa.

Mombasa is the chief port, the commercial and industrial hub situated on the Indian Ocean.

In addition to the coffee trade, food and chemical industries are in evidence. There is a steel mill, aluminium works, oil refinery and cement plant. Apart from these industries, there are many poor areas in the outlying districts. Mothers' Union members teach and empower women to learn simple basic skills, so that they can start their own businesses to support their families. They are taught how to make liquid soap, candle making and tie dyeing. Members are also involved in the education of children, either at home or in school. They also visit the sick at home or in hospital giving comfort and hope for the future.

Let us pray

Loving Lord, bless our sisters in Mombasa, give them strength and ability to carry out their work caring and encouraging others to cope with the challenges which each new day brings. We ask for your blessing on the key workers Rev. Martha and Phoebe as they share with other members the work of the Mothers' Union. We give thanks for this important Link that we may reach out to them and be thankful that we can support each other.

Amen

Silence for reflection

GWAGWALADA and EKITI-WEST in Nigeria.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every

situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

NIGERIA

The situation remains unchanged. The Anglican Province of Nigeria has separated
itself from the rest of the Anglican Communion and there is still no communication
between Central Mothers' Union and Nigeria.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with over 190 million inhabitants. 40% of
its population is under 14. It is one of Sub Saharan Africa's largest economies and
relies heavily on oil as its main source of revenue. Despite this, more than 60% of
Nigeria's population live in extreme poverty.

Mothers' Union has been present in Nigeria for well over 100 years, having started in
1908. The two dioceses with which we continue to be linked are Gwagwalada and
Ekiti West.

Lord, we pray for all Mothers' Union members in the dioceses of Gwagwalada and
Ekiti West. We bring before you their many projects and particularly their work in
raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in the community. We pray for their diocesan
Presidents Rebecca Tabwaye and Tolu Adejopu. We acknowledge the rift between
Nigeria and the rest of the Anglican Communion and pray that Mothers' Union may
be able to help towards reconciliation. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our
Lord, Amen.

Silence for reflection

TEMOTU in Solomon Islands

TEMOTU

Although we still have not received any communication direct from Temotu we are
fortunate to receive a regular newsletter from Melanesian Mission which covers that
area.

They are pleased to report that COVID has not spread through Solomon's and they
now have vaccines to protect them. However, the whole period has put a huge strain
on family relationships and there is distrust of the vaccines affecting its uptake.

Sea level rise and increased severity of storms and flooding all have a knock-on effect
to social issues with ethnic conflicts and homelessness. However, there is
tremendous support from the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

In March a meeting at the Society of Francis' mission in Solomon Islands highlighted
the issue of illegal unregulated and unsustainable logging. The Brothers sent their
petition to the United Nations in New York. In Temotu logging has had a profound
effect on local fishing as well as flooding septic tanks and polluting water supplies.
Proposals have been sent to the Government recommending the protection of human
rights against abuse of local people and exploitation of natural resources affecting the

livelihood of local people. The Government is asked to ensure the effective protection of women including sexual abuse and domestic violence; also access to sufficient safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for the entire population.

We send our heartfelt love and prayers to all our members in Temotu.

LEICESTER in England

New Testament Reading: Colossians 2:2

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

We are a very diverse diocese in every way, industrial, rural and farming, Population consists of varied ethnic backgrounds. During the last 15 months we have been in various stages of lock down due to the Covid 19 virus. Prayer has played a greater part of our lives, due to not being able meet in Church, and not able to sing hymns. Face masks being worn indoors, and meetings taking place by Zoom. Contacting family, members, friends, and neighbors by telephone, and email.

Our Emergency Prayer Chain has continued by email. We are planning to take 14 families to Mablethorpe on holiday next month as it had to be cancelled due to the virus.

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.

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise
for the fellowship and prayer support
that we have through our links

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 Eastern Zambia, Mombasa, Gwagwalada, Ekiti-
West and Temotu.

New Testament Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

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**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God an King
We join with our members worldwide
to celebrate our fellowship in Christ.**

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**

LORDS PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

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.

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

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore
Amen**