

Wave of Prayer Service

Welcome

We are global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service. We 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 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.

HYMN Let all the world in every corner sing (may be sung or said)

**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!"**

**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!"**

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, 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

We pray for Georgina Banda, the interim Diocesan President, and for the Ven. Canon Phillip Mwale, the Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain. Our correspondent in Leicester Diocese is Jeannie Brightwell.

Eastern Zambia is the least developed of Zambia's ten provinces. Its provincial capital is Chipata which is becoming a fast growing urban centre. The whole of Zambia is suffering the difficulties of rapid industrialisation along with the problem of underdeveloped, thinly populated areas.

The elections this year for the new Diocesan President in Eastern Zambia have been called into question. There was a petition against the results and consequently Mothers' Union is currently being run by an interim committee. We hope that when the new Diocesan President is in place, exchanges of our activities, projects, special MU days, prayers and services will flow.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we remember our sisters in Eastern Zambia as they go about their daily tasks in your presence. We pray that the election difficulties may soon be resolved so that Mothers' Union can address itself wholeheartedly to its calling. Let our prayers bring comfort and peace. AMEN.

Silence for reflection

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-31

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.

MOMBASA in KENYA

We pray for Martha Mwaro, the Diocesan President and Phoebe Altieno Maina, the Diocesan Links Co-ordinator, corresponding with Margaret Watts of the Leicester Diocese.

Mombasa is a coastal city in south east Kenya, situated along the Indian Ocean. It is the second largest city after Nairobi. It is a great trading centre with several items such as glass, copper, iron and rhino horn passing through the coast. Mombasa has a long history and tracings can be found in writings of the 16th century. In present times, it has become a great holiday venue where fine hotels can be located for those seeking rest and refreshment.

The Cathedral of Mombasa is a magnificent white structure, known as the Anglican Church of Kenya. However, there are many places of worship to cope with the city's diverse communities and several different denominations and languages.

The Cathedral in Mombasa has a very strong Mothers' Union presence, who are the backbone of the Church. They organise many different events on a large scale within the Church, e.g. training Girls Friendly Society and Boys Brigade to work with young

people. Mothers' Union members also train groups in First Aid, mental health and wellbeing. Conferences are held on a large scale and also large numbers of members are enrolled.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we remember our sisters in Mombasa as they go about their daily tasks in your presence. We pray and uphold them in their valuable work, educating and strengthening others. We pray for all the families whose lives they touch, with understanding and compassion. Give them strength and courage to reach out to all the members helping them in the communities in which they live. Let our prayers bring comfort and peace. AMEN.

Silence for reflection

GWAGWALADA in NIGERIA EKITI-WEST in NIGERIA

We pray for the Mothers' Union in Nigeria.

Since the Anglican Province of Nigeria has separated itself from the rest of the Anglican Communion, there is still no communication between Central Mothers' Union and Nigeria.

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

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.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we remember our sisters in Gwagwalada and Ekiti-West as they go about their daily tasks in your presence. We bring before you their many projects and particularly their work in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in the community. 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. Let our prayers bring comfort and peace. AMEN.

Silence for reflection

TEMOTU in SOLOMON ISLANDS

We pray for the people of the Solomon Islands, and in particular for the Diocese of Temotu. Although keeping in touch with such a remote area of the South Pacific is very difficult, RoseMarie Manning is our Leicester Diocesan correspondent. She receives information each month from the Melanesian Mission, an Anglican organisation whose president is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Temotu is the easternmost province of the Solomon Islands and consists of two chains of islands which run parallel to each other from North West to South East. The capital of the province is Lata where there is an airstrip and a hospital, which provides general and tropical medical care. Most of the cases treated there are infectious or gynaecological.

Honiara, the capital of the Solomons, is currently experiencing a second wave of Covid. The pandemic reached the islands in mid-January this year. This resulted in some food shortages across the country as ships were not permitted to take cargoes to the islands due to travel restrictions. Farmers in Guadalcanal have been stopped from travelling into Honiara to sell their vegetables and many people are having the greatest difficulty in accessing fresh food.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we remember our sisters in Temotu as they go about their daily tasks in your presence. We bring before you our concerns for the people of the Solomon Islands as they face the second wave of Covid infections. We pray for those who are afraid of having the vaccine and ask that truthful messages are shared across the islands to keep people healthy, safe and calm. Let our prayers bring comfort and peace. AMEN.

Silence for reflection

LEICESTER in ENGLAND

We pray for our Board of Trustees as they take on extra responsibilities pending the appointment of a President – for Mary Clarkson, Ruth Fryer, Janice Lunn, Eileen Payne, Margaret Rouse, Yvonne Smith, Sue Wilson and our Faith Advisor Canon Cynthia Thomson. We pray also for our new Administrator Kate Cooper.

Leicester Diocese now has over 120 diocesan members and 30 indoor members. Our branch members continue to meet and not only value fellowship but also show great enthusiasm for local projects and gain inspiration from wider Mothers' Union work.

Our AFIA project is very well supported and is due to give a completely free holiday in Mablethorpe for 10 families at the beginning of the school holidays in July. Also, our knitted modern day slavery chain, with over 10,000 links to represent the huge number of victims in Leicestershire, continues to travel round the diocese to raise awareness and inspire prayer.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we remember our sisters throughout the Diocese of Leicester as they go about their daily tasks in your presence. We pray for all who lead our Mothers' Union in Leicestershire in branch, deanery or diocese. We pray that the Holy Spirit may inspire us and renew in us the vision that Mary Sumner had for Mothers' Union. AMEN.

Silence for reflection

Thanksgiving and intercessions

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 with Eastern Zambia – Mombasa – Gwagwalada – Ekiti-West – Leicester and Temotu.

We thank you for the times when we have built relationship through sharing. 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 our link dioceses. 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.**

The Lord's 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.**

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.**

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.

HYMN (may be sung or said)

**One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you**

**'Round the corners of the world I turn
More and more about the world I learn
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you**

**As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me traveling the way I should
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you**

**Give me courage when the world is rough
Keep me loving though the world is tough
Leap and sing in all I do
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you**

**You are older than the world can be
You are younger than the life in me
Ever old and ever new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along 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.