

Midday Prayers 2024: Transformation – Now!
January
Faith for the future

Monday: Together with hope

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Romans 15:13

O Lord, open my eyes that I might see the needs of others Open my ears that I might hear their cries; Open my heart so that they need not be without succour;

Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, Not afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes and my ears That I may be able to do your will
Elizabeth Stickney

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Tuesday: Encounters with God

'Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. I will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty and meditate on your wonderful works.' *Psalms 145:3-5*

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.' *Romans 12.2*

Lord, just as the lives of men and women in the Bible were transformed as they experienced Your living presence, may we be changed as we encounter You afresh today.

This we pray in your name.

Disturb us, O Lord when we are too well pleased with ourselves when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord, when, with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when, having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and when, in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas where storms show Thy mastery, where we are losing sight of land, and where we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow.

Amen

Desmond Tutu from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Wednesday: Blessed assurance

The Lord gives strength to his people, and the Lord blesses his people with peace.
Psalm 29:11

To you, O Lord, we bring our lives, Troubled, broken or at ease, A sacrificial offering for you to use.

Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved, Take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility. Take away our blindness and show us the world through your eyes. Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave.

Show us your ways, teach us your paths, That we might walk with you more closely. Our hand in your hand, our feet in your footsteps; From the baby in a stable to eternity.

This we pray in your name.

Amen.

Liz Pullen

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Thursday: A reconciling presence

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

The words 'Father Forgive' are used as the response in the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation:

'All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.' Romans 3:23

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.

(The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, by Canon Joseph Poole in 1958, is prayed in the new Cathedral every weekday at noon, and throughout the world by partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails.)

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Friday: Faith in the family

'I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in Love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.'

Ephesians 3:14-19

Heavenly Father, thank you for marriage, which reflects Christ's love for us. May it continue to be honoured and recognised within society as a means of providing security and love to a family.

Today we remember all those contemplating marriage, those attending marriage preparation and those seeking marriage enrichment.

Lord of love, we thank you for every marriage and family where love is at the centre. We pray for an increase in understanding and of grace and love to grow in their lives.

We remember the adults and children in relationships badly affected by poverty, conflict, unfaithfulness, neglect or cold-heartedness. May they know your healing presence.

We bring before you, those who have lost a loved one and are experiencing grief and loneliness. God of all comfort prompt caring friends and family members to express their love and support at this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Saturday: Holy Ground

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it: for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.'

Psalms 24:1-2

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for your gracious providing may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples.

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home: strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference, we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory.

God of creation and Lord of life, you entrusted us to care for our environment, but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and unstable our surroundings are, because we are not looking after creation. Help us to understand how the most insignificant little flowers, and the tiniest insects, each creature and each individual are all part of a wondrous whole, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Walk with us in our journey of hope

Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union
Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

Wave of Prayer

1-3 January: All Mothers' Union trustees and staff throughout the world

5-7 January: Swaziland; Ruaha in Tanzania; Aquata & Lagos Mainland in Nigeria; Norwich in England and Chotanagpur in India

8-10 January: Lesotho; Kibungo in Rwanda; Etche & Ogbomoso in Nigeria; Leeds in England and Hanuato in Solomon Islands

12-14 January: Mauritius; Kericho in Kenya; Katsina in Nigeria; Kumasi in Ghana; Winchester in England and Nandyal in India

15-17 January: Seychelles; Bukedi in Uganda; Enugu in Nigeria; Birmingham in England and Marathwada in India

19-21 January: St Mark the Evangelist in South Africa; Butare in Rwanda; Okigwe-South in Nigeria; Gambia; British Columbia in Canada and Rajasthan in India

22-24 January: Egypt; Gasabo in Rwanda; Otukpo & On the Coast in Nigeria; Bathurst in Australia and Nasik in India

26-28 January: False Bay in South Africa; Shinyanga in Tanzania; Umuahia & Ijebu South West in Nigeria; Bath & Wells in England and Vellore in India

29-31 January: Masvingo in Zimbabwe; Kibondo in Tanzania; Nebbi in Uganda; Bida in Nigeria; Llandaff in Wales and Kanyakumari in India

Faith for the future

January prayers from Mothers' Union's Prayer Diary

Flourishing MU

Monday 1st *Monthly prayer*

Loving Lord, our faith is in you. We place our future in your hands as we follow where you lead. Inspire us with your vision and empower us with your Spirit, that we may walk forward together, knowing you are our guide and companion. Amen

Tuesday 2nd

Lord of the harvest, we pray for an increase in the number of members in the Mothers' Union that our mission to give Christian care to families and communities will flourish and grow throughout the world.

Wednesday 3rd

Gracious God, guide us in your plans for Mothers' Union that we may flourish in every way; in our prayers and worship, our fellowship with one another and our service to our communities.

Thursday 4^h

Jesus said: No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:4-5*

Friday 5th

Heavenly Gardener, give us your wisdom and discernment to prune back works which are no longer thriving or relevant, that there may be space for flourishing growth as you identify new areas of service.

Saturday 6th Epiphany

This Epiphany may we, as did the Wise Men, bow down in worship to our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and offer ourselves to serve him anew with all the gifts he has given to us.

Trust and hope in God

Sunday 7th

Dear God, we pray for your church here on earth, that putting its trust in you, both clergy and laity may be emboldened in their sharing of the gospel. "All our hope on God is founded".

Monday 8th

Dear God, we pray for the future of our beautiful world. We have faith and trust that solutions will be found to reverse climate change, and we pray that we may all do our part in achieving this. "In you we put our trust".

Tuesday 9th

Dear God, we pray for the nations of the world. For future peace and acceptance of each other and our differences. May there be hope and delight in the rich tapestry of the human race and may trust abound.

Wednesday 10th

Dear God, we pray for the Mothers' Union, giving thanks for all our members throughout the world. As we put our trust and hope in you, our God, may we see the path ahead for this wonderful global community.

Thursday 11th

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever. *Psalm 146:5-6 (NRSVA)*

Friday 12th

Dear God, as we are part of your family the church, we pray for families we know who are under stress and pressure. May we be of help to them and steer them to see the wonder of lives guided by your word and presence.

Saturday 13th

Dear God, we pray for ourselves at the beginning of this year. What will it bring? Having trust in you, our God, we know that we are not alone. We give ourselves to you afresh, in sure and certain hope of your love for each of us.

MU global mission

Sunday 14th

Father God, as we pray this week for the global mission of Mothers' Union, we do so because you first loved us and gave your Son for us. Alleluia!

Monday 15th

Triune God, in your three persons, we have all we need, as individuals and as your worldwide church. May the sum of the parts of Mothers Union be greater than the whole, that we may have everything we need to carry out your mission, enabling all people to thrive.

Tuesday 16th

Generous God, thank you for members everywhere, who give so freely of their time, talents and resources to bring your transforming love to all. As we bless others in your name, may we always remember that we too are blessed.

Wednesday 17th

Sustaining God, on days when things go wrong, keep us mindful of those for whom simply living is a daily struggle. Through MU projects throughout the world may they gain practical help and hope for the future.

Thursday 18th

For God so loved the whole world, *John 3:16*, not just the people we agree with or find easy to love. May we continue to show compassion and unconditional love to everyone we pray for and work with.

Friday 19th

In our global mission to promote peace and reconciliation, hope and justice, may we not only look to bring authorities to account, but may each of us have patience and perseverance in our own relationships, that we may show others how to live as you intended.

Saturday 20th

Creator God, we ask for your Spirit to inspire us with creative ways to meet the challenges we face as a global movement. May we be bold to push open doors and try new things. May we always fix our eyes on Jesus.

The Church united (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Sunday 21st

As we gather to worship in our various churches today let us pray for our unity in diversity. We are each uniquely created yet as we work, worship and pray together may we be a light to the nations and may we strive to be one.

Monday 22nd

Father, in unity is strength. May we be united in our love for you, each other and the world; may your peace enfold us as we work for unity in our churches. Enable us to love and respect one another in all areas of life.

Tuesday 23rd

Lord, as individuals and as different churches, show us how many things we have in common and teach us not to concentrate on our differences. Join us together in the love of God that our unity may become even stronger.

Wednesday 24th

We give thanks for the rich tapestry of our different churches. May we rejoice in each other's traditions and come together in love and respect to experience new ways of worshipping God and growing closer to each other.

Thursday 25th

Jesus said: I pray for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. *John 17:20-21*

Friday 26th

Lord, we thank you for those you've given to walk alongside us, those who think and act the way we do and those who are different from us. May we see Christ in each one as we journey through life together, supporting and encouraging one another.

Saturday 27th

We thank you, Father, for the relaxation of the weekend. May we rest in your love, be built up in the unity of the Spirit and be forever thankful for your grace at work within us all, whatever our church tradition.

Faith for the future

Sunday 28th

Dear God, we have great excitement and anticipation about our future. Please keep our minds strong so that we always look optimistically at the future. May we always have cause to hope. Amen

Monday 29th

Heavenly Lord, we have so much to look forward to in the coming year. Keep our hearts and minds focused on what is important and help us to be positive for the future. Amen

Tuesday 30th

Lord, help us to hear you saying, "I am your hope". You are the hope for hopeless so we are running to you with both hands stretched out grabbing on to you. Give us a reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. Amen

Wednesday 31st Monthly prayer

Loving Lord, our faith is in you. We place our future in your hands as we follow where you lead. Inspire us with your vision and empower us with your Spirit, that we may walk forward together, knowing you are our guide and companion. Amen

Final Blessing

**The love of the Lord Jesus
draw us to himself;
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen us in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**