**Mary Sumner Day 2020**

**Morning Prayer**

****The Lord be with you

**and also with you**

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'” *[Isaiah 6.8]*

We say together Mary Sumner’s personal 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**

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,

**have mercy on us.**

**Collect for Mary Sumner Day**

Faithful and loving God,   
who called Mary Sumner to strive   
for the renewal of family life:   
give us the gift of your Holy Spirit,   
that through word, prayer and deed   
your family may be strengthened and your people served;   
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.

*A Reading:* *Matthew 15.21-28*

 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

**The Reflection**

**The Prayers**

In thankfulness for the life of Mary Sumner, Lord we pray:

For the desire to love and serve you as she did,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For families who live where there is war, oppression, injustice and poverty,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For homes of peace and love, reflecting your love for us all,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For wives, husbands and partners, that they may grow ever deeper in love for each other. For grace to be able to forgive and be forgiven,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For children to grow up to know and love you,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For families who at this time know the pain of COVID19, or any illness of body, mind or spirit,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

For Mothers’ Union across the world. For courage, energy and a sense of adventure to fulfil its calling,

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving for all who have run the race and kept the faith. May we also share in your heavenly kingdom.

*Pause*

Spirit of the living God,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.  Amen.**

And together we pray:

**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.**

***Leader***

Lord, we give thanks for the life of Mary Sumner, for her obedience to your calling, for her vision for the Mothers’ Union. We pray that through the grace of your Holy Spirit we may receive renewed confidence and share that vision. We give you thanks and praise for the many people around the world who reach out in the name of Mothers’ Union. Through our work may we touch the lives of those we meet, that they, too, may know your love.  **Amen.**

God above us,    **give us faith.**

Christ beside us,  **give us love.**

Spirit within us,    **give us hope.**

**And now may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.  Amen.**