



## **Mary Sumner Day Service 2025**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to our Mary Sumner Day Service. We gather here today to give thanks for the legacy of our founder and all that has been achieved in her name for the Glory of God. From the first meeting in Old Alresford in 1876, the Mothers' Union has made a difference, across the world, to the lives of millions of people. Join us today as we give praise and thanksgiving for this dynamic and life changing women-led movement.

**Hymn** - A hymn of your choosing or 'Abide with me' which was Mary Sumner's favourite hymn.

### **Opening Prayer**

God of the past, the present, and the future, we have gathered to celebrate and to rejoice: to give thanks for the life and vision of our founder, Mary Sumner.

As we look to the past with thanksgiving we affirm our resolve to build upon this heritage as we seek to serve God in our generation, and establish a stable future for those yet to come.

**Amen.**

### **Collect**

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.

**Amen.**

### **New Testament Reading**

The inscription on the tomb of Mary Sumner is from Revelation 14 verse 13.

Then I heard a voice from heaven. "Write this," it said. "Blessed are the dead who die as believers in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Holy Spirit. "They will rest from their labour. What they have done will not be forgotten."

## **Gospel Reading**

Taken from the Lectionary or suggested readings: Matthew 25:34-40, Matthew 5:13-14, Matthew 4: 18-24.

**Hymn** - A hymn of your choosing.

## **Homily**

### **Reaffirmation of the Vision and Mission of Mothers' Union**

We take a moment to reflect upon the vision and mission of Mothers' Union and its continued importance in the world we live in today.

#### **Mothers' Union Vision**

We reflect upon our vision which is a world where everyone prospers. Through our prayers and actions, we help build confident people and resilient communities seeking to bring about justice, challenge prejudice and advocating for change.

#### **Mothers' Union Mission**

Our mission is to show our Christian faith through our actions, helping transform communities worldwide. We do this by nurturing strong relationships, promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to the vision and mission of Mothers' Union and to You, Oh Lord.

Loving Lord, give us faith and strong hearts to serve you. We follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before: changemakers, activists and the peaceful, prayerful, members who pray daily for the work of the Mothers' Union.

May we continue to be a people who are Your hands and feet on earth. Lord, make us people of faith.

May we continue to be a people who seek to follow Your will, who work to Your praise and glory. Lord, make us people of faith.

May we continue to be a people who reach out across the world, ever growing in our membership, joining with our sisters and brothers in every part of your wonderful world. Lord, make us people of faith.

**Amen.**

**Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer** - Written by her in 1876 and then prayed by her every day for the rest of her life.

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.**

**Suggested themes for Prayers of Intercession:**

Prayers for your link diocese

Prayers for the membership of Mothers' Union

Prayers for our elected Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, and the Worldwide Board of Trustees

Prayers for your own local initiatives

Prayers for family life

Prayers for our MU National Programmes in Britain and Ireland (prison work, domestic abuse, modern slavery and AFIA)

Prayers for our overseas work

Prayers for all the vulnerable people and communities we serve

Loving Lord, we give thanks for the inspiration of our founder, Mary Sumner. We look back with gratitude for her witness, and for all that has been achieved thus far in the name of Mothers' Union worldwide.

We pray for God's blessing upon our future. May we continue to enrich family life for future generations and continue to bring new members to our movement to enable us to do this.

**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.**

### **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.**

### **Closing Hymn** - A hymn of your own choosing

### **Final Blessing**

All praise be to God, by whose power one woman's vision became reality through the founding of Mothers' Union.

All praise be to God who has led us thus far and whose Spirit inspires for what lies ahead. The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

United in love across the world, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**