# A picture containing fan, device, grate Description automatically generatedThy Kingdom Come

# Mothers’ Union Service outline 2023

## *Please adapt to suit your particular context. You may like to include prayer for and information about local initiatives by MU and friends to love and serve those you are praying for or others who are in need.*

## *If you are sharing this time with friends from your church and other local churches, look for ways to actively include them in the service.*

## Welcome

## Call to worship

As a global movement, with a vision to build the kingdom of God through the transformation of the churches and communities we work with, and of which we are a part, we gladly join together with friends with whom we partner, to pray *thy Kingdom come.*

We draw near to God who transforms us into Christ’s likeness,

with ever-increasing glory, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Opening hymn:

## Opening prayer

Loving Lord, transform our lives

that we may reflect the glory of Christ.

Continue in us the work of your Spirit;

the miracle of transformation

to reflect the glory of Christ

and build God’s kingdom on earth. **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**

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,   
**2**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
**3**and provide for those who grieve in Zion –  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:9-13 (NCV)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When you pray, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name always be kept holy.  
**10**May your kingdom come  
and what you want be done,  
here on earth as it is in heaven.  
**11**Give us the food we need for each day.  
**12**Forgive us for our sins,  
just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.  
**13**And do not cause us to be tempted,  
but save us from the Evil One.

[The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Prayer reflection:

‘Thine is the Kingdom,

the Power and the Glory.’

We say it at least once every week,

rounding it off with an ‘Amen’ –

so let it be, Lord, let it be.   
A fervent wish …

But remind us   
that despite the evidence of our eyes,

as we see the sorry state of the world,

despite the closer-to-home evidence of our lives,

with their well-known failures,

despite all the evidence,

we speak mere truth:

for *yours* is the Kingdom,

come to our world in Jesus,

come to our hearts in the Holy Spirit.

Toe-holds maybe it sometimes seems,

but toe-holds add up,

especially when your Power is added.

So power your Kingdom in our lives, Lord,

surge through and shine with glory,

even through us.

Build your Kingdom, Lord, with your Power,

to your Glory.

Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory. Amen

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## Address

## Stories of local initiatives and transformation

## Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

*This is an opportunity to pray for your local community. Include prayers of thanks as well as intercessions for change for good.*

We now join together in the prayer for *Thy Kingdom Come.*

**Almighty God,**

**your ascended Son has sent us into the world**

**to preach the good news of your kingdom:**

**inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts**

**with the fire of your love,**

**that all who hear your word may be drawn to you,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

## Closing hymn:

## Final acclamation of praise, blessing and sending out

Glory to God,

whose transforming power

at work among us,

can do infinitely more

than we can ask or conceive;

to him be glory in the Church

and in Christ Jesus,

for ever and ever.

Alleluia. **Amen**

Go from here to reflect the glory of Christ,

the one who taught us to pray *thy Kingdom come;*

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,

and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain

with you always. **Amen**

## *if appropriate, consider providing refreshments after the service to give time for fellowship and to build relationships. It would be good to display and have to hand information to raise awareness about Mothers’ Union.*