**Annual Gathering 2021**

Saturday 25th September

**Rebuilding Hope and Confidence**

## **Worship**

## **Opening Prayer**

*led by Sheran Harper, Worldwide President*

Loving Lord,

May your goodness and love be present amongst us today.

Come bless our gathering with unity, hope and vision.

Lord, we pray for unity.

join us together in heart and mind that we may be truly one.

Lord, we pray for hope.

Come stir your hope within our hearts and renew our faith.

Lord, we pray for vision.

May your vision fill our lives as we seek to reveal your love.

We ask all this in the glorious name of Jesus.

**Amen**

*adapted from* [*www.prayerscapes.com*](http://www.prayerscapes.com)

## **Midday worship**

*led by Bishop Emma Ineson, Mothers' Union Chaplain*

*As we approach the time to unite together with our fellow members across the world in our Wave of Prayer, we bring our praise to God for his faithfulness to us, particularly through the challenges of the past months. We bring our prayers for his continued presence with us as we gladly serve him in this present time and look to the future with steadfast hope and confidence.*

My dear friends, we always have good reason to thank God for you,

because your faith in God and your love for each other keep growing all the time.

*2 Thessalonians 1:3 (CEV)*

**Lord of all, we bring to you our praise**

**for the precious fellowship we share**

**with our members worldwide.**

We thank you for the blessing of our unity in vision and purpose.

Bind us together in love and support as we uphold one another in prayer.

**God of grace, enable your servants**

**to carry out your mission on earth**

**through the work of Mothers’ Union worldwide.**

Today we pray for the people and work of:

Makamba in Burundi; North Karamoja in Uganda; Lokoja & Sapele in Nigeria;

Truro in England and Tirunelveli in India

**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 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**

**Isaiah 40:28-31**

28 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,

and his understanding no one can fathom.

29 He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,

and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the Lord

will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;

they will run and not grow weary,

they will walk and not be faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Reflection by Bishop Emma**

Father,

thank you that in a world of despair, you are our Hope.

In a world of darkness, you are our Light.

In a world of sorrow, you are our Joy.

**Help us to share the Hope of our hearts**

**with one another.**

**Enable us to give Hope to others**

**through your work amongst us today.**

Holy God, our only hope is in you.

We thank you for the past, trust you for today,

and believe for the future;

that all your promises will come to pass

and we can rest forever in your love. **Amen**

*As this time of worship draws to a close, we take a moment in the quiet to look forward with renewed hope; trusting in the leading of God through all that lies ahead.*

## Blessing

May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit

that brings healing and life to our world.

May Jesus the Christ uphold us in grace

as we share his love with his world.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage

to be bearers of God’s song of hope in the world. **Amen**

## **Closing Prayer**

*led by Sheran Harper, Worldwide President*

From where we are

to where you need us,

Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know

to the adventure of what you will reveal,

Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world

until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared

for those who love God,

Jesus, now lead on.

**Amen**

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,

who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement

and good hope, encourage our hearts and strengthen us

in every good deed and word.

**Amen**