



Mothers' Union
150th Anniversary
Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 10th June 2026
5.00 pm

WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

We are the cathedral for the Diocese of London in the Church of England (Anglican). Christian worship has been offered on this site for over 1,400 years and all are welcome to join in with that ongoing tradition, whether you are a person of Christian faith, another faith, or no faith.

Our regular worshippers, along with over 220 staff and many volunteers, make up the cathedral community. Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you as you return to your home or place of worship.

The Cathedral Choir and Hackney Choral are conducted by Hilary Punnett, Assistant Director of Music, and William Bruce, Artistic Director of Choral Partnerships. The organ is played during the service by James Orford, Organist, and before the service by Hamish Wagstaff, Organ Scholar.

Safeguarding

We are committed to the safeguarding of all our visitors, staff and volunteers. If you are in the cathedral or on its grounds and you or someone you know is at risk of abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation, please find a Minister or a Virger. In the unlikely event that you are unable to find a Minister or a Virger, please approach any member of staff, who will find someone to help you. Similarly, if you witness an event you find worrying whilst in the cathedral, please make a member of our staff aware as soon as possible.



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to those around you who may wish to pray quietly. Please ensure all electronic devices are set to silent or turned off and please do not take photographs during the service.

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Music before the Service

Prelude and Fugue in E flat major (BWV 552)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Benedictus (Op. 59, No 9)

Max Reger
(1873-1916)

Processional Order

A Virger

The Crucifer and Acolytes

The Mothers Union Banners

A Virger

The Associate Minister

Visiting Clergy

A Virger

College of Canons

Cathedral Officers

The Chapter of St Paul's

A Virger

The Deacons

The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please join in all texts printed in **bold**, and stand and sit as you feel able to do so.

Stand as the Mothers' Union banners and the Ministers enter.

Processional Hymn



**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Words: (A&M 715) Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Tune: *Lord of the Years*
Michael Baughen (b.1930)

The Greeting

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Peace be with you
and also with you.

The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise his presence with us.

As God's people we have gathered:
Let us worship him together.

Confession and Absolution

A Deacon says

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We have not always worshipped God our creator.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

We have not always followed Christ our saviour.
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis:
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram:
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will to all people.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you.
We give thanks to you
for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King,
God, the Father Almighty,
Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.
You who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us:
you who take away the
sins of the world, receive our prayer:
you who are seated at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Music: *Missa brevis in C* (KV 259) "Orgelsolomesse"
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91)

The Collect

The Archbishop of Canterbury sings

Let us pray.

All pray in silence.

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 the Mothers' Union,
through our work may we touch the lives of those we meet,
that they too may know your love:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All sing



A - men.

Sit

A Testimony

given by

Kathleen Snow,
Worldwide President of Mothers' Union

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

read by

Prebendary Pauline McCalla,
Mothers' Union President, Diocese of London

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3. 14-24

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Gospel Acclamation

The Choir sings

Alleluia. Speak, Lord, your servants hear you:
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia.

Stand and turn towards the Deacon as the procession brings the Gospel into the midst of the congregation.

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5. 13-16

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

given by

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

led by

the Britain and Ireland Zonal Trustees

Julia Jamieson (Canterbury),

Dr Deb Lee (York),

June Butler (All Ireland),

The Reverend Ann Wren (Scotland),

and

Lowrie Washington Jones (Wales)

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Sit or kneel for our prayers.

Loving and faithful God,
we thank you for 150 years of Mothers' Union;
for every life touched, every prayer offered,
every act of kindness given in your name.
We praise you for the vision of Mary Sumner,
and for the countless members who have served you
with love, courage, and quiet faithfulness throughout the years.
You have been our refuge, our strength, and our guide in every season.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for families strengthened,
for the vulnerable protected, for hope restored, and for communities renewed.
Where there was need, you sent willing hearts.
Where there was darkness, you brought light.
As we stand at this milestone,
we place our past into your hands with gratitude,
and our future into your trust.
Renew our calling, O God.
Refresh our vision.
Strengthen us for the days ahead.
Help us to walk humbly, love deeply,
and serve faithfully, wherever you lead.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Gracious God,
We thank you for the leadership of Mothers' Union across the world.
We pray for Kathleen, our Worldwide President,
for the Worldwide Board of Trustees,
and for those who serve at local, diocesan, and provincial level
that they may be strengthened with wisdom and compassion.
We pray also for the Mothers' Union central charity staff,
that they may be filled with energy, insight and resilience.
As she prepares to conclude her role,
we give you thanks for the faithful leadership and service of Bev, our CEO.
May she know the gratitude of our global fellowship
and the assurance of your abiding presence.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Lord of justice and compassion,
stir our hearts to continue the work
You have set before us.

Give us courage to stand with those who suffer gender-based violence,
to speak out against modern slavery,
and to seek justice wherever there is oppression.
Open our eyes to the pain caused by racism and division.
Help us to challenge injustice, raise awareness,
and be a people who welcome, respect, and value all,
regardless of background or circumstance.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

God of peace,
We hold before you all who live amid conflict and fear.
Bring protection to the vulnerable, comfort to the grieving,
and hope to those longing for safety.
Guide our world leaders to choose paths of justice, mercy and reconciliation.
May we continue to be instruments of your peace,
bearers of your compassion, and witnesses to your love in the world.
We commit the Mothers' Union, today, and for generations to come,
into your loving care.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

A Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

Hymn

during which a collection is taken for the work of the Cathedral. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift at no extra cost by using the Gift Aid envelopes provided. Donations can also be made at the Tap-To-Donate units at each exit or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your support.



**Praise you Lord for all the caring
Love for families all around.
Through the work of Mothers' Union
May the love of Christ be found.
Thanks for all the groups and branches
Joined in fellowship and prayer,
Helping bring relief of suffering
To the world for which Christ cares.**

**Fam'lies who have met with trouble
May we in your love draw near.
Show the world Christ's living presence
Helping those in doubt and fear.
From a vision of Mary Sumner
Years of dedication led
Mothers' Union and its members
In the name of Christ, its head.**

**Fill, inspire us, keep us growing
Make us what you'd have us be
'til our work for you is ended,
'til we are in Christ set free.
In the power of your Spirit
Let your voice through us be heard.
May we go and spread the gospel,
Feeding on your Holy Word.**

Words: Joan Atkin
Mothers' Union member

Tune: Abbot's Leigh
Cyril Taylor (1907-91)

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

Let us pray.

Yours, Lord,
is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you
and of your own do we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with friends,
he took bread and gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying,
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him;
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks and said; drink this all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

**Father; we do this in remembrance of him;
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising
in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread
and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ our risen Lord.**

With the whole Church throughout the world

We offer you this sacrifice of praise

And lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,
each praying in our preferred language:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Archbishop of Canterbury breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The Archbishop of Canterbury invites the people to receive Holy Communion, saying

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Please sit, and then follow the directions of the Virgers and Wandsmen.

Holy Communion is offered in both kinds, but you are free to receive in one kind only.

If you do wish to receive in both kinds, please do not dip the Eucharistic wafers into the wine.

If you are baptised and receive Holy Communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive here.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please identify yourself to a Virger or Wandsman, and receive from the President.

You are welcome to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.

The Choir sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: grant us peace.

Music: *Missa brevis in C* (KV 259) "Orgelsolomesse"
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91)

The Anthem

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;
Walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.

Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,
Entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.

I am here, I am with you.
I have called; do you hear me?

Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,
Jewels sparkle for a while: what you long for is not lasting.

Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.
Those who love me know my love;
Those who seek me find their answer.

God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit, co-eternal;
Glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages.

Words: Michael Hampel (b.1967)
Precentor, St Paul's Cathedral (2011-18)
based on Proverbs 8. 1-17

Music: *The Call of Wisdom*
Will Todd (b.1970)

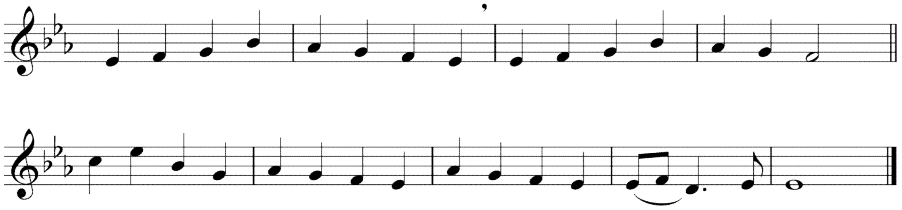
The Mary Sumner Prayer

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 words I speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.
Amen

Words: Mary Sumner (1828-1921)
Mothers' Union Founder (1876)

Music: The Reverend R Hagon (2017)

Hymn



**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.**

Words: (A&M 604) Richard Gillard (b.1953)

Tune: *Servant Song*
Richard Gillard (b.1953)
arr. Betty Pulkingham (1928-2022)

Prayers after Communion

All stand with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who says

Let us pray.

All pray in silence.

Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name,
your servant Mary Sumner revealed your goodness
in a life of tranquillity and service:

grant that we who have gathered in faith around
this table may like her know the love of Christ
that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all your fullness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us and all people to serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

The Commission

led by

The Right Reverend Kelly Betteridge,
Bishop of Basingstoke,
Mother's Union Bishop Ambassador

We have worshipped together knowing that our heavenly Father is present
throughout the world.

**Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We stand with families around the world.**

We have worshipped together acknowledging the part we play as disciples of
Jesus.

**As members of the Mothers' Union we shall seek to share your love
with all whom we meet.**

We have worshipped together enlivened by God's Holy Spirit
**We are empowered by your Spirit and united in prayer and worship;
we shall serve you wherever you place us.**

We have worshipped together with a desire to grow closer to God.
**And so in love and service we reach out as your hands across the
world.**

The Dismissal

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity,
to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ,
so that with one voice, you may glorify God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

A Deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

during which the procession of banners moves through the Cathedral and the Ministers depart.



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.**

Words: (186) Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
based on Luke 1. 46-55

Tune: *Woodlands*
Walter Greatedorex (1877-1949)

You are invited to be seated for the playing of the Organ Voluntary.

To exit, please follow the directions of the Wandsmen and Stewards.

Organ Voluntary

Toccata, Fugue et Hymne sur "Ave maris stella"

Flor Peeters (1903-86)