

Wave of Prayer Service

This service may be adapted as required. There are extra ideas below or feel free to use your own material. If a Eucharist is to be included this may be added after the sharing of the Peace. For a more informal service, use whichever elements are appropriate to create your act of worship.

Welcome and gathering

We must be global Christians with a global vision
because our God is a global God.

John Stott, theologian

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service. We gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world and for the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. We gather to commit ourselves afresh to upholding our unity in prayer in the year ahead.

Call to worship

God, your name is known everywhere;
all over the earth people praise you.
Your right hand is full of goodness.
Psalms 48:10

Lord of all the earth,
we come to worship with thankful hearts.
Let us praise his name together. **Amen**

Opening hymn

Prayer of preparation

**With thankfulness and love we take our place
in the family of Mothers' Union worldwide.**

Open our eyes to the significance of relationship
with members worldwide; with those known to us or not.

**With support and love we reach out
to our sisters and brothers across the world.**

Strengthen our commitment to those with whom
we share vision and values; wherever we may live.

**In unity and love we link hands
with our worldwide family of God.**

Unite us in worship; build us in service,
as together we seek to share your love.

In Jesus' name. **Amen**

Confession

Merciful Lord,
who died that we may be accepted
into the family of God,
forgive us for the times when our love
for each other is strained,
when the bonds between us are loose.
Forgive us when we choose to ignore
the joys of shared relationship
and focus on weakness and strife.
Help us to change our selfish ways
that we may love God and his children
with all our hearts. **Amen**

Absolution

May our heavenly Father open wide his arms
in loving forgiveness and grace.
May we know the joy of restored relationship
with God and his people. **Amen**

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3:14-22

For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. ¹⁶I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, ¹⁷and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, ¹⁸so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. ¹⁹Yes, may you come to know his love—although it can never be fully known—and so be completely filled with the very nature of God.

²⁰To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: ²¹to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to you, O Lord.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

²⁹ 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

³¹ The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'

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

Hymn

Talk/sharing of stories/symbolic offering *See service notes

Thanksgiving and intercessions *See service notes

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love.
Colossians 2:2

As we come to give thanks for Mothers' Union Worldwide, and particularly for our link dioceses, may God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

Symbolic lighting of candles *See service notes

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise
for the fellowship and prayer support
that we have through our links with..... [link dioceses](#)

We thank you for the times when we have built
relationship through sharing and visits.
We thank you for the times when lack of news

has driven us to pray and intercede.

We give thanks for the blessing
of being united in prayer with..... [link dioceses](#)
We pledge to continue to remember
our sisters and brothers in prayer.

**Loving Lord, help us to appreciate the blessings
of being united together in the family of God.
Let us ever be ready to intercede for each other
for God's assistance and protection.
May God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.**

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**

Sharing of the Peace

God was in Christ, offering peace and
forgiveness to the people of this world.
2 Corinthians 5:19

As we share God's peace together
we also reach out in peace to those
with whom we are linked across the world.
The peace of the Lord be with you:
and also with you.

We offer each other a sign of peace

Final Hymn

Final blessing

Lord, as we have celebrated
your goodness together,
may our unity deepen and grow.
We are the family of God.
His love draws us in to himself
and out to one another.
We reach out as your hands

**across the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

We say the Grace together

Notes for Wave of Prayer Service

Suggested hymns and songs:

All over the world the Spirit is moving
Brother sister let me serve you
Father hear the prayer we offer
Father I place into your hands
God is working his purpose out
He's got the whole world in his hands (*you could include the names of link dioceses in the verses, or refer to Mothers' Union in some other way*)
Help us to help each other Lord
Hope of our calling
In Christ there is no east or west
Jesus is king and I will extol Him
Jesus put this song into our hearts
Jesus stand among us at the meeting of our lives
Let all the world in every corner sing
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me
Lord for the years
Oh Lord all the world belongs to you
One more step along the world I go

Alternative Bible readings:

Matthew 9:35-38
Matthew 28:18-20
Mark 12: 28-31
Ephesians 3:14-22

Philippians 4:4-7
1 John 4:7-12
1 John 4:18-21

Talk/sharing of stories

If wished, the talk may lead to, or take the form of the sharing stories of communications with your link dioceses; answers to prayer and responses to specific circumstances. If stories are limited you may like to share more generally about the circumstances of the area.

If you wish to include a Statement of Faith it may be added after this section.

Thanksgiving and intercessions

Include specific prayers for your own link dioceses here.

There may also be a symbolic offering of items representing link dioceses. If numbers allow, you may like to consider a creative prayer activity whereby people write on paper chains their name and promise to uphold the links in prayer. These may be linked together during the intercessions and laid at the altar.

The Lord's Prayer and Mothers' Union Prayer may be added after the intercessions.

Symbolic lighting of candles

At the beginning, or during the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, small candles representing link dioceses could be lit from a larger candle - the light of Christ - as a symbol of our prayers on their behalf. This could happen as the names of dioceses are being read. The smaller candles may be arranged in circles to highlight the mutuality of relationship and prayer support. Remember to include a candle to represent your own diocese.

If you have a large map of the world this could be displayed at the front and the candles placed on the relevant areas of the map.

Flags from the countries your dioceses are in could also be displayed, or included on the service booklet.

Extra prayers to use or adapt

Loving Father,
we join with our family throughout the world,
with one voice, to glorify your name.

**Together we bring our worship,
together we bring our prayers.**

Though we may never meet,
we are united in prayer.

**We share our sorrows and joys
and together praise our God.**

As the family of God
we are united in love.

**We glorify our Father
with thankful hearts. Amen**

Almighty God,
as you have loved us and made us your friends
so you have called us to love one another.
Thank you that we are united together in Christ.
May our love for the family of Mothers' Union
be expressed through our prayers.
It is our joy and privilege to pray for each other.

As children of God from all nations
we share each other's joy in your
abundant blessings of grace;
We rejoice with those who rejoice
and together praise our heavenly Father.

As the family of God
we are united through his love.
We glorify our heavenly Father
with thankful hearts. **Amen**

Let all the world, in every corner sing, My God and King!
We join with our members worldwide
to celebrate our fellowship in Christ.

We give thanks for our global family
whose lives of faithful action shine as a beacon of hope
in the communities they serve.
Unite us in worship; build us in service,
as together we seek to share your love. **Amen**