

**Mothers' Union Service  
for  
Mary Sumner Day  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
11.30am  
Ely Cathedral**



***Celebrating Mary Sumner  
the founder of Mothers' Union***



## **Mothers' Union Service for Mary Sumner Day**

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 146:1-2

### ***Welcome***

Today we celebrate Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union. We celebrate her insight and perceptiveness in seeing what was needed and recognising the means by which the need could be met. Across the globe the 4 million members of Mothers' Union celebrate the life and faith of our founder. We pray for the mission of Mothers' Union as lived in so many countries. Mary Sumner's life showed clearly her belief in the vocation to prayer and the call to social action that flowed from it. These are the foundations on which MU has been built.

### ***Opening Hymn: Praise My Soul***

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like you his praise should sing?

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to blame and swift to bless;

Alleluia, alleluia!

glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
All our hopes and fears he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:

Alleluia, alleluia!

widely as his mercy flows.

4. Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
praise him all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise with us the God of grace.

### ***Opening Prayers:***

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, so 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.**

### ***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.**

### ***Collect:***

O God, by whose grace your servant Mary Sumner became a burning and shining light in your Church: grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipleship and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-9***

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Reading:***

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

*Matthew 5:13-14*

**13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

**14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

**15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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

***Hymn:*** Lord Jesus Christ

1. Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
You are one with us, Mary’s Son.  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
Pouring Your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing, Living Lord.

2. Lord Jesus Christ,  
Now and every day  
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
This in remembrance, Lord, of you,  
Into our lives your power breaks through, Living Lord.

3. Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us.  
Born as one with us, Mary’s Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
Risen from death to set us free,  
Living Lord Jesus, help us see, You are Lord.

4. Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
Live my life for you, Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
Your many gifts will make me new,  
Into my life your power breaks through, Living Lord.

***Homily: Revd Mike Banyard***

***Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

Response: Spirit of the living God

**Hear our prayer.**

*We end this time of prayer saying together Mary Sumner's personal 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 word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn:*** Tell out my Soul

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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!

***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.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Dismissal***

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Mothers' Union work and projects throughout the world

- Support to families
- Away From It All holidays
- Support for Refuges
- Provision of household equipment
- Advocacy against gender-based violence
- Campaigning against Modern Slavery
- Campaigning against child marriage
- Nursery schools
- Orphan care
- Health and sanitation
- HIV/AIDS education and care
- Malaria prevention
- Savings and credit groups
- Sewing and knitting projects
- Literacy projects
- Visiting the sick and elderly
- Bereavement counselling
- Prison ministry
- Peace and reconciliation programmes
- Emergency relief programmes
- Bible study



Registered Charity No. 251394

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

[www.elydiocese.org/mothers-union](http://www.elydiocese.org/mothers-union)