

Mothers' Union Thursday Prayers, 16 October 2025

Zoom Details 10.30am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDlK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode 080127

Theme: Prayers during the Week of Prayer for World Peace

Welcome everyone to our Thursday prayers, both here in person and on Zoom.

Introduction: We meet to pray for peace during the 51st Week of Prayer for World Peace. Many of the prayers today come from the Prayer Resource you are receiving today and for those not here, I will display the email to order one at the end.

Introductory Prayer.

Lord, if there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in nations, cities, neighbours and there must be peace in our homes. Remind us always that real peace begins with ourselves and then we must pass it on. Amen

We say together 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

Our monthly prayer

Father, as we seek to follow your Son, help us to be always aware of how our actions and words affect others and the world around us.

Give us grace to be peacemakers among people, and good stewards of your creation. Amen

No one can miss the horrors that are taking place in so many regions of the world. We now offer a Prayer for World Leaders

God of history, we yearn for true leadership. For men and women of inspiration and insight, visionaries to build nations and communities in Your image. Stewards dedicated to justice, unafraid to face the challenges of our day, so that our cities and countries resonate with compassion and health, justice and mercy, kindness and peace. Bless our leaders with dedication and foresight, fortitude and imagination to solve the complex issues that threaten our future. May they lead us to a time when neighbours embrace, and the communities thrive. A time liberty and equality reign supreme. Amen

Our readings are:

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" Romans 15:13

Reflection:

This year we are seeing many anniversaries notably the 80 anniversary of the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the ending of World War 2. There are also some really positive 80th anniversaries including the founding of Christian Aid and Pax Christi. Today we want to remember the founding of the United Nations. More anon.

Just over half a century ago, leaders from various faiths joined together and wrote: "In the turmoil of a world increasingly dominated by violence and characterised by bewilderment and confusion created by the apparent impotence of humankind to alleviate suffering caused by injustice except by more recourse to violence, it seems to us that an unprecedented spiritual initiative is urgently required. We therefore wish to commend the idea of the World Week of Prayer for Peace." Sadly, those words apply more today than ever.

Like many of you, there have been times lately I have stopped listening to the news or at least shut my eyes to pictures of more injured children etc. It is easy to give up hope that things will change. But as Christians one of our attributes is 'to be hopeful'. Just think of all the times the word 'hope' appears in the Bible. It is not easy. When I get discouraged, I remember the story of the 'Starfish'.

A man was walking along a beach where hundreds of starfish had been left stranded. As he walked, he would pick up one and throw it back into the sea. Two men coming from the other direction stopped and asked him if he thought he could save all the starfish? No, he said, but I can save this one, as he tossed it back into the water.

What does this modern parable say to me? No, we cannot change everything, but all of us know there are things we can do that make a difference. Along with practical things we can also pray for peace. The Prayer Resource you receive today is meant not just for this week but for the whole year and I hope you can share it with others.

Now that other 80th anniversary – the founding of the United Nations. Some of you would have been children in 1945 many of us were not yet born. But 50 nations, representing 90% of the world's population, gathered in San Francisco to agree a treaty that would enshrine the rights of individuals and maintain peace.

The Charter agreed by all 50 nations begins: 'We the people of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war that twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind'. Then President Truman spoke saying "Many doubted that agreement could be reached from people from such different races, religions, cultures and languages. But these were forgotten in one unshakable determination to end war!"

We know woefully that that goal has not been achieved. However, we look to the hopes of those 80 years ago and pray that their high hopes might still be achieved.

Now our intercessions:

We pray for those places in the midst of violent conflict. We cry out to you in lament at the devastation caused by war. Would those suffering from grief, displacement, hunger or fear know your presence with them. Make us, your Church, a reconciling presence, ministering to those in need and bridging divides.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders, around the world and close to home, with the influence to shape conflicts. Would you give them wisdom and compassion in their decisions, and the courage to use their power for peace. Strengthen the resolve of all nations to work for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, we pray for the work of Mothers' Union, in the Diocese of Ely and our members throughout the world.

We pray for our Worldwide President Kathleen Snow, for her dedication to mothers' Union and for her travels around the world meeting members in so many countries.

We pray for everyone at Mary Sumner House and members in our Canterbury Province.

We pray especially for our Diocesan leaders, Hazel, Debbie and Jean, for our task group leaders and all our members in the Ely Diocese.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for our links with Lusaka in Zambia, Shyogwe in Rwanda, Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria and Karimnagar in India, also our Diocesan links with Kigali and Vellore. We also pray for MU members in countries of conflict especially remembering Sudan, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo where they are striving to alleviate suffering.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our hymn today is For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness

bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.
Fred Kaan

From our Prayer Diary for 16 October

Sustainer God, we give thanks that you walk with us, day in, day out. Thank you for the many Mothers' Union ministries sharing your good news around the globe. Help us to celebrate these good news stories. Amen

Today I offer an **adapted Lord's Prayer**

Our God, the bread of life, whose heaven is in feeding the creation, your name now is unhallowed as people are dying of famine and living in starvation, your kingdom will only come when there is peace, justice and equal food for all.
How on earth can your will be done as it is in heaven, when the aid is reaching so few?
Give the hungry their daily bread as we fast for all who are starving.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into the temptation of either seeking revenge or staying neutral in the face of injustice,
But deliver us to share our bread and lives by standing up for the cause of just peace.
Yours is the kingdom of justice, where wars and conflict come to an end,
Yours is the power of love, where the hungry are fed, and the wounded are healed
Yours is the glory, where heaven and earth meet as righteousness and peace kiss each other,
For now, for here and for ever and ever.
Amen

And finally, along with **the Grace**, we say the International Prayer for Peace

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace
Let peace fill our hearts our world our universe. Amen