



## WAVE OF PRAYER REBUILDING HOPE & CONFIDENCE 2021

### WELCOME & GATHERING

Rebuilding hope and confidence is at the heart of our call to support individuals and families to transform their lives. So we gather to celebrate our hope and confidence in God, which inspire and equip us to build hope and confidence in others, as we reach out in love and service.

**HYMN** (optional)

### PRAYER OF PREPARTION

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

**All** 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.

**All** 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.

**All** Unite us in worship; build us in service,  
as together we seek to share your love.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

### CONFESSION

**Merciful Lord, forgive us when we shun the security  
of your eternal promises and build our hope and confidence  
on the shifting sands of this world.  
Lord of steadfast security, help us to anchor our lives on you,  
that we may place our confidence in your unfailing word  
and build hope that endures in those you call us to serve. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

May our loving Lord bless us  
with forgiveness and grace  
that we may be renewed

in hope and confidence  
to gladly serve his world. Amen.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 24.13-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**TALK / SHARING OF STORIES / MU UPDATE**

**HYMN** (optional)

**THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray.

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

We are all walking the Emmaus Road now,  
moving from where we have been  
to where life is leading us.

No matter how we experience or interpret  
what is happening now and what lies ahead;  
no matter how we may feel on a given day,  
what we can be assured of is  
that Christ is with us.

We hope for a better day,  
and pray for that day to come.

For now, we are walking on the road.  
Take heart that you do not walk alone.

*Bishop Mariann Budde,  
Bishop of Washington, The Episcopal Church*

We are here to serve our communities  
and to bless them.  
To carry hope and peace,  
and to demonstrate the love of God to everyone.  
Servants and neighbours to those around us.  
Lord hear our prayer.

*Adapted from a sermon by Rt. Hon. & Rt. Revd. Dame Sarah Mullaly,  
Bishop of London*

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

We pray for our World Wide President, Sheran Harper, Provincial President, Kathryn  
Anderson, and Diocesan President, Jill Cannings and President Elect, Helen Lynett.

We pray for our link dioceses:

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise for the fellowship and  
prayer support that we have through our links with the dioceses  
of: Oyo and Aba Ngwa North in Nigeria; the diocese of Rumbek in  
South Sudan; the diocese of Soroti in Uganda; the diocese of North  
Eastern Caribbean & Aruba; for our continuing link with South Korea; and for our own  
diocese of Peterborough.

We give thanks for the blessing  
of being united in prayer with our link dioceses.

We pledge to continue to remember  
our sisters and brothers in prayer and especially any who continue  
to struggle with the effects caused by Covid 19.

**All 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.**

We join together in the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

**All** 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.

### **THE PEACE**

Almighty God, as you have loved us and made us your friends,  
so you have called us to love one another.

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

*A Service of Communion can be included here.*

**HYMN** (optional)

### **THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER**

**All** 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.

### **THE BLESSING**

Lord, as we have celebrated your goodness together,  
may our unity deepen and grow.  
We are the family of God.  
Your love draws us into yourself  
and out to one another.

**All** We reach out as your hands  
across the world.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.