

A Service for Lady Day 2023

Welcome

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Lady Day Service.

As we gather to celebrate and be inspired by Mary's willing obedience, so we seek to be transformed by God personally and as a movement, that we may serve him in the world Christ was born to save.

Call to worship

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things!

Psalm 98:1

We gather to glorify the Lord
with open hearts and voices.
We gather to rejoice in God our Saviour
in whom all things are possible.
Holy is his name. **Amen**

Opening hymn (please choose or omit)

Confession

**Lord, you call us to come to you
that our lives may be transformed.
You call us to listen and respond
to your purposes for us.**

Lord of mercy and grace
forgive our faults and weaknesses.
Empower us to follow the example of Mary
who answered your call with a willing heart.

**Transform us into people
of vision and faith. Amen**

Exploring the Word - *Luke 1:30-31, 35-38*

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."
The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

When does an ordinary life
Become extraordinary
A mundane day

Become revolutionary
A moment in time
Change history?
When God enters in
Forgives sin
Allows us to
Begin again
When we repeat
Those words of Mary
'May it be to me
As you say'
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Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.
Through a poor young woman in a small town
you gave birth to your realm of endless glory.
By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope
and overshadow us with your power and grace
so that we, like Mary, might be your servants,
bearing witness to the promise of your Word;
through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.

Talk/ Reflection

Hymn: the Magnificat / Tell Out My Soul

Thanksgiving and intercessions

*You may also add your own intercessions for the transformation of
your local MU, church and community initiatives*

When you come to us
with gentle whisper
or mighty wind,
and ask what seems impossible
to human minds,
as you did to Mary,
may our response
not be to hesitate,
make excuses
or run away,
but to echo instead
those trusting
and beautiful words,
"I am the Lord's servant:
may your word be fulfilled in me"

**For Mary's faithfulness
and her life of service
we thank you, Lord. Amen**

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Heavenly Father,

You hold all possibilities in your hands and nothing is impossible with you.
Make known your will for each one of us, though we may ask, "Who, me?"
Take us as we are and accept all we have.
Let it be with us according to your word. Amen

Symbolic Offering Ideas

During a time of silent prayer, you may like to distribute sachets of seeds to take away and plant as a symbolic offering of our willingness to be transformed in vision and service, and as an affirmation of our faith that all things are possible with God.

Or you may choose to light candles or write on a post it note your commitment to service or prayerful support

We offer up these symbols of God's transforming work as we say "yes" to his plans and purposes for us.
For with God all things are possible. **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

Final Hymn – (please choose or omit)

Final Blessing

May we go into the world
transformed in mind and heart,
rejoicing in our glorious God
in whom all things are possible. **Amen**