

Mary Sumner Day Service 2023

This service has been prepared by Mothers' Union Australia

On 9th August Mothers' Union worldwide gives thanks for the vision of our founder, Mary Sumner. This form of worship is a guide for preparing liturgy for this celebration. It can be used alone or within the Eucharist.

A hymn or song may be sung

Leader

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" *Isaiah 6.8*

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,

have mercy on us.

We say 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

Bible reading

Suggested: Matthew 4.18-22 or 15.21-28, Luke 11.9-13, John 17.20-26

Reflection optional

Leader

In thankfulness for the life of Mary Sumner, Lord we pray:

For the desire to love and serve you,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,

hear our prayer.

For families who live where there is war, oppression, injustice and poverty,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,

hear our prayer.

For homes of peace and love, reflecting your love for us all,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,

hear our prayer.

For marriages, that each may grow ever deeper in love for the other.
For grace to be able to forgive and be forgiven,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,
hear our prayer.

For children to grow up to know and love you,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,
hear our prayer.

For families who know the pain of illness of body, mind or spirit,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,
hear our prayer.

For Mothers' Union across the world. For courage, energy
and a sense of adventure to fulfil its calling,

Pause

Spirit of the living God,
hear our prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving for all who have run the race and kept the faith.
May we also share in your heavenly kingdom.

Pause

Spirit of the living God,
hear our prayer.

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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**

And together we pray 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**

Leader

Lord, we give thanks for the life of Mary Sumner, for her obedience to your calling, for her vision for the Mothers' Union. We pray that through the grace of your Holy Spirit we may receive renewed confidence and share that vision. We give you thanks and praise for the many people around the world who reach out in the name of Mothers' Union. Through our work may we touch the lives of those we meet, that they, too, may know your love. **Amen**

God above us, **give us faith.**
Christ beside us, **give us love.**
Spirit within us, **give us hope.**

**And now may the God of hope fill us
with all joy and peace in believing
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may abound in hope. Amen**