

**Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers' Union
Mary Sumner Day Service 2022**



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

9th August marks Mary Sumner, a day in which we remember our founder and her vision for our movement.

Welcome to our Service. We gather to celebrate and be inspired by the example of the founder of Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner; as we look to bring transformation to lives and re-imagine Mothers' Union for the future in this *Jubilee Summer of Hope* with the building up of all in leadership roles in MU.

The plans of the Lord stand firm,
the purposes of his heart through all generations
Psalm 33:11

God of history and eternity,
Lord of every generation,
we come to worship with glad and thankful hearts.
Let us praise his name together. Amen

Opening hymn - In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend
In Christ Alone lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group, Capitol CMG Publishing

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**

Collect for Mary Sumner Day

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life: give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

3 short Old Testament Readings

which have inspired Joyce from our *Summer of Hope* booklet and helped her to have the strength to continue in her leadership role:

Isaiah 41 :10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 40 : 31

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 32 : 8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4: 18-24

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

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake — for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people'. Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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

Hymn - O Jesus, I have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my Guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me:
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my Friend.

5. O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

Talk (Maxine)

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer *Written by her in 1876 and then prayed by her every day for the rest of her life*

**All this day, O Lord, let me touch
as many lives as possible for thee;**

Lord, we thank you for the lives touched throughout the years and throughout
the world by the members of Mothers' Union

**and every life I touch do thou
by thy spirit quicken,**

We pray that those whom we serve will experience the reality of your love through our prayers, words and actions.
**whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe
or the life I live. Amen**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession including those from the Jubilee Summer of Hope booklet.

**Loving Lord,
We give thanks for the inspiration
of our founder, Mary Sumner.
We look back with gratitude for her witness,
and for all that has been achieved thus far
in the name of Mothers' Union worldwide.**

Lord, mighty and righteous, our hope and our inheritance, we give you thanks for all the spiritual blessings you have for us, your people. In Christ you gave us new hope. By His grace you redeemed us and adopted us. You accepted us as heirs and co-heirs of your kingdom. And that is the hope we live by in faith. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our family. for those with whom we share our home and for those from whom we have received so much love, care and friendship. We thank you for those who have helped us to understand what you meant family life to be like. We thank you for our parents and for all who by their words and actions, by their lives and lifestyle, their hope and faith, have made you and your love a living reality to us. Help us to be channels of your grace to those we meet.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O God, the hope and joy of all who trust in you, we pray for those who do not yet know you. May they learn of your great love for them and find their hope and joy in you. This we ask in the precious name of Jesus.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we humbly come to you. So many hazards are happening in this changing world, and we are surrounded with various dangers every day. Lord God, sustain your people, help and strengthen them to face all these with hope and confidence in you. May your people recover from the effects of hazards in a timely and efficient way. May our communities move forward and stand firm whatever occurs. May you provide them with everything necessary to cope with disaster and risks, so they have control over their situation and always be victorious!
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Servant leader, Father God, we call on you to breathe the spirit of service on us. Help us to serve graciously and with a willing heart exhibiting the true mind and heart of Christ to lift someone in need who can feel God's rays of compassion reaching out in their time of stress. Make us flowing channels that will stop beside a deprived soul and stretch out to serve and uplift the fallen.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, we were created to receive your love that brings us life in your Spirit. And we are built up in love whenever your light shines through our actions. Following the example of Jesus, the bearer of your Spirit, may we live, not to be served but to serve, bringing your love into everything we do for each other and for those in need. For the good of our communities and the glory of your Kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

From our wave of prayer for today, we give thanks for our members across the globe. We particularly pray for our link dioceses of Rejaf in South Sudan; The Military Episcopate in Kenya; Owo and Doko in Nigeria; Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the West Indies and in our own diocese for the Waltham Abbey, Holy Cross and St Lawrence branch. We ask your blessing on our CDMU projects of *English for Women, Trinity Child Contact Centre, Thrive Domestic Abuse Survivors Support Group* at Epping, St John and all the countless smaller projects of knitting and community support across the diocese. We thank you for 100 years of Mothers' Union in Billericay. We pray that our membership will flourish and grow as stories of our work and achievements are heard.

We give thanks for the far-reaching vision of Mary Sumner and for all who have continued her work through the years.

We pray for God's blessing as we look forward with faith for all that is to come, to help us to build a future together which will enable our work to flourish and transform lives; through a far-reaching vision and our commitment to your will. 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

Closing hymn - Tell Out my Soul

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.

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.

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.

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 forevermore!

Songwriters: Timothy Dudley-smith / Walter Greatorex

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.

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

United in love across the world, go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen