

THURSDAY PRAYERS AUGUST 21st 2025

Zoom 10.30am 21st August

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode 080127

Welcome to everyone here today in the Cathedral and to those joining us on Zoom.
Today we are focusing on “Mothers’ Union, working in Christ”

The Bible reading today is Hebrews 12 v18-29, reading from The Message.

Unlike your ancestors, you didn’t come to Mount Sinai—all that volcanic blaze and earthshaking rumble—to hear God speak. The earsplitting words and soul-shaking message terrified them and they begged him to stop. When they heard the words—“If an animal touches the Mountain, it’s as good as dead”—they were afraid to move. Even Moses was terrified.

No, that’s not *your* experience at all. You’ve come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. The invisible Jerusalem is populated by throngs of festive angels and Christian citizens. It is the city where God is Judge, with judgments that make us just. You’ve come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel’s—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace.

So don’t turn a deaf ear to these gracious words. If those who ignored earthly warnings didn’t get away with it, what will happen to us if we turn our backs on heavenly warnings? His voice that time shook the earth to its foundations; this time—he’s told us this quite plainly—he’ll also rock the heavens: “One last shaking, from top to bottom, stem to stern.” The phrase “one last shaking” means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered.

Do you see what we’ve got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He’s actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won’t quit until it’s all cleansed. God himself is Fire!

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Heavenly Father, we bow down before you, and we recognise your power, your reign over everything that has existed and all that will be in the future. We glorify you today because you are the essence of our life, you are our understanding, our strength, love and our salvation. Heavenly Father, as we meet as members of Mothers’ Union, teach us to know how best to serve you, not just in the needs locally, but in those of the wider world. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may have the strength to follow your way. We pray with sure hope and assurance. Amen

REFLECTION

Mothers' Union, working in Christ, so much of our literature shows how we do Christ's work. On the front cover of the spring "Connected" magazine it says, "Stronger together, as God's hands and feet" Each issue is full of accounts of how we are working with Christ.

Our new Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, tells us that Mothers' Union is a way of life for her, that her faith has grown through her membership and relationships with other members. This month we celebrate Mary Sumner Day. The reflection for August in our prayer diary reminds us that Mary Sumner left us with a model to follow, that we should touch as many lives as possible. We can be proud that we have built on her legacy and have achieved so much, in this country and across the world.

Mothers' Union, working in Christ's name to transform hard to reach communities, providing support for families, working towards freedom from violence, poverty and injustice. For those working in Christ, key Bible readings emphasize a heart-focused diligent approach to all tasks as serving the Lord, not human masters, and to do so with excellence and integrity knowing that labour in the Lord's name is not in vain.

Proverbs 3 v27; Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to help them. Or, in the Message, Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person.

Ephesians 6 v6-7; Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you are working for the Lord rather than for people. The Message covers V5-8 ; Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.

Bette Midler sang the song "From a distance" the lyrics include the voice and song of hope, the voice and song of love, the hope of hopes, the love of love, being a song for everyone and the reminder that God is watching us, from a distance. As Mothers' Union, we aim to bring that hope and love.

God may not be physically sitting in an office watching your every move, but he is the one you work for. Paul had this in mind when he said; "Whatever you do, work heartily for the Lord and not for men, you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ".

PRAYER

Let us say together, the prayer for August from our Prayer Diary.

Loving Lord, as we give you thanks for the vision of our founder as we celebrate her special day this month. Prayer is the foundation of Mothers' Union and we pray for the confidence and faithfulness to build on Mary Sumner's legacy and all that has been achieved so far. As we support one another through prayer, may we touch many lives for God through our prayer, our words and our actions. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

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, we pray for the families that have been or will be enjoying an AFIA holiday. God of love, friend to those who find life a struggle, help them to have courage to face the challenges life brings.

We pray for all who are suffering at this time, through disaster, wars and the effects of the weather, through illness or bereavement. We give thanks for those who have come through difficult times.

We give thanks for our links with Lusaka in Zambia, Shyogwe in Rwanda, Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria and Kirmnager in India, also our Diocesan links with Kigali and Vellore. We give thanks for the news we receive from them. We pray that you will be with them as they carry out your work in their countries. AMEN

THE LORDS PRAYER

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

SING

"Take my life and let it be"

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee,

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from Thee,

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as Thou shalt choose,

Take my will, and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
take my heart; it is Thine own;
it shall be Thy royal throne,

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure-store.
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee.

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

THURSDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in the worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power and use them in the cause of your glorious Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen