



# Wave of Prayer

March 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

Canterbury Diocese  
joins with the Dioceses of Kajo-Keji,  
Dutse and Akoko - Edo

It is suggested that the following  
Bible readings, prayers, and hymns be used by MU members  
either in Church or at a meeting or in their own homes.

Please choose a variety of voices to read each section  
All join in the words in **Bold** type

## **WAVE OF PRAYER 2022**

As we emerge from the pandemic, we turn our eyes towards the Lambeth Conference, where many Bishops and their wives (most of whom are Presidents of MU in their Diocese) will congregate here, in our lovely city of Canterbury.

We hope to meet some of the MU Presidents of our links, but unfortunately Nigeria, which include two of our links, Dutse and Akoko-Edo, are not coming. Tanzania will be coming, and hopefully the Bishop of Tarime and his wife.

Unfortunately, a year ago last January, to our shock and surprise, Tarime asked us to sever our link with them. There was no explanation. I hope and pray to meet Tarime's MU President, and find out what the problem is.

We also look forward to welcoming Bishop Emmanuel and Mama Cicilia, his wife, from Kajo-Keji, in South Sudan, whom several of us met in 2018. I hope and pray that we can arrange a meeting with them. The news from our links is always sad to read.

Our prayers are very badly needed.

*We are so thankful to Daniele Ligneau-Wilton, our Overseas Officer, for so faithfully gathering and compiling these notes and prayers.*

## **THE GATHERING**

*Jesus promises us: where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them. Matthew 18:20*

Lord we welcome you. We thank you that you are in our midst. We praise you for this time together to pray for the people and work of the Mothers' Union, and in particular our own link dioceses.

**Amen.**

Lord, we come before you today as part of the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. Enable members worldwide to live their lives to your glory, in fellowship and in service: each in their own place and situation. Help them to stay true to the Aim and Objects of the Mothers Union.

**All As we rejoice in the gift of this day, so may the light of your presence, O heavenly Father, set our hearts on fire with love for you, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn:** (or music of your choice)

**Help us to help each other Lord, or Be still for the presence of the Lord**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Bible Verse:

**1 Timothy 2 : 1**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.*

We pray for all people, especially those who cannot express their faith freely and openly because of political, cultural or family reasons. We pray for those who are unable to meet with other Christians to pray, and we thank God for the members of the Mothers' Union who meet and faithfully serve God whatever hardships and situations they encounter.

We pray for ourselves:

For enthusiasm and a renewed passion for God's world,  
For empowerment that we would feel emboldened and equipped  
to respond to God's calling,  
For excitement about the future with a joyful expectation of God's  
guidance and  
For energy for all that lies ahead, that we may serve God  
wholeheartedly.

**Amen**

Loving Father, we join with our family throughout the world,  
with one voice, to glorify your name.

**Together we bring our worship,  
Together we bring our prayers.**

Though we may never meet, we are united in prayer.

**We share our sorrows and joys  
Together we praise our God.**

As the family of God we are united in love.

**We glorify our Father with thankful hearts.  
Amen.**

### ***PRAYER OF PENITENCE***

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## ***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 LORD'S PRAYER***

We say together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **WAVE OF PRAYER**

**Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you**  
*(or music of your choice)*

*It is suggested that you light a candle as a focus for your prayers and place it on a table. Place the flags of each country either on a map of Africa or on the table around the central candle. You may also like to light a separate candle for each country. This is at your discretion.*

### **KAJO-KEJI in SOUTH SUDAN**

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Kajo-Keji is located in South Sudan, close to the Ugandan border. As we know, war has been raging in South Sudan since 2013, not long after it became independent from Sudan in 2011. Unfortunately, in January 2017, the war reached Kajo-Keji, and people fled to the neighbourhood country, Uganda, which opened its doors.

In 2018, some of us were fortunate to go and visit the refugee camps in Northern Uganda and meet our MU links, with Mama Cicilia, President of the MU Diocese, her husband Bishop Emmanuel, and many of the Mothers' Union workers. We attended their MU Conference, and prayed that they would soon be able to return home, their Promised Land. For this, many are still waiting.

Indeed, a radio broadcast from early February 2022, describes how, in Kajo-Keji, cattle herders from neighbouring states are still bringing truck loads of cattle to graze on the land of the Kajo-Keji people, so that the latter cannot farm the land. The invaders cut the trees and take them away for timber. The cattle farmers are accompanied by soldiers and they pillage homes and kill families. Consequently, many Kajo-Keji people prefer to stay in the camps, fearing for their lives and waiting for better times.

The Mothers' Union team, led by Mama Cicilia (President) and Silvian Kiden (the MU leader) are continuing their pastoral ministry, both in the camps and in Kajo-Keji. They preach the good news of Christ and prepare people for confirmation.

At Christmas, Bishop Emmanuel was able to celebrate Christ's birth in the Cathedral of Kajo-Keji, where he is now based. Sadly, in early February, Bishop Emmanuel lost his father. We remember him and his father in our prayers.

*Light the first candle and place the flag of South Sudan in the appropriate place.*

Lord, we pray for the people of Kajo-Keji, as they still struggle to make a living, in the camps as well as in Kajo-Keji itself. Bless them all, and give them hope, patience, and strength as they wait for the departure of the people who took over their land and left their cattle there. Give strength to the Mothers' Union members, Lord, as they go around evangelising, preaching the good news of Christ, dead and risen, and bringing people to baptism and confirmation.

Lord, be with Bishop Emmanuel as he mourns the death of his father, and welcome his Dad into your Kingdom.

In Jesus's name. **Amen**

**Bible Verse: Psalm 5:11**

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

*Pause.....*

## **DUTSE in NIGERIA**

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The Diocese of Dutse is located in the Northern part of Nigeria, and is an enclave of Christianity in a large Moslem area. The Diocese has a population of about 1000 people, clergymen, men, women, youth and children included. The Mother's Union President is Mrs. Danbinta, wife of Bishop Markus Danbinta.

Life is tough in the Dutse Diocese as no one knows what will happen in the next moment. Mr. and Mrs Uche, a family in the Diocese, lost their four children in an accident this January. Also in January, the Bishop's son was ambushed. Fortunately he survived, but his motorcycle was stolen. Despite all the insecurity and the threat of being killed, at the end of January the Mothers' Union held their annual Conference, followed by a rededication service. Then, they held a revival meeting entitled Surpassing measure of God's grace over sorrow.

MU Dutse are praying for a breakthrough in their finances in order to get land to build a vocational centre. But mostly, they ask us to pray for divine intervention as their country is "decaying morally and spiritually, and there is no sacredness of life".

*Light the second candle and place a Nigerian flag in northern Nigeria.*

Lord, be with all the people of the Dutse Diocese as they experience daily conflicts, daily killings, daily threats. Give them strength and courage to take each day as it comes. Walk with each one of them as they struggle to face all their problems. Lord, be with Mr. and Mrs. Uche as they mourn the sudden death of their four children. Welcome the children in your paradise, and uphold the parents in your comforting arms.



Lord, as the Mothers' Union struggle on, give them grace to overcome the obstacles on their path, and help them continue in their evangelism tasks. Guide them as they fight evil, and encourage them to rekindle the flame of light through their love of God and one another.

In Jesus' s name, **Amen**

**Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 31:6**

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

*Pause....*

**AKOKO-EDO in NIGERIA**

The Diocese of Akoko-Edo is located in the Southern part of Nigeria. It was started in 2007 in the Edo State of Nigeria. The Mothers' Union President is Victoria Oyekpen, wife of Bishop Oyekpen.

Last April the Bishop and Mrs Oyekpen celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and their 50th birthdays in a lavish and colourful celebration.

Mothers' Union members are very involved in the community, taking care of families in need. For couples who wish to affirm their Christian commitments but cannot afford a Church wedding, MU organises "marriage blessings" in church, making families full members of the Church community and women are then able to join Mothers' Union. Unfortunately their membership is not as large as they would want it to be, and they ask us to pray for an increase. Their MU conference is held each year in February, in the cathedral. Their main problem at the moment is the terrible state of their roads which hinders their programmes.

MU are also very keen to protect girls from under-age marriages and to keep them in the faith. To this effect they are sponsoring girls' fellowship programmes, with cultural and recreational activities. In addition to the Girls' Guild, they inaugurated the Girls' Brigade in April 2020. They are currently preparing three new companies for enrolment.

## **AKOKO-EDO in NIGERIA**

*Light the third candle and place another Nigerian flag in the south of Nigeria.*

Lord, we thank you for the wonderful work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Akoko-Edo. Bless the Bishop and his wife, Victoria, as they continue their ministry following the great celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. Give them strength as they lead the Diocese with enthusiasm and faith.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as they strive to increase their membership. Help them bring girls and women to the faith through the Girls' Brigade, the Girls' Guild, and the blessings in Church of marriages performed according to local customs.

Lord remember the people of Akoko-Edo and protect them as they go around the Diocese on very bad and dangerous roads.

In Jesus's name. Amen

## **Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**

"We always thank God for all of you, and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." -

*Pause.....*

## **CANTERBURY in ENGLAND**

*Light the fourth candle, and place the English flag on the top edge of the map.*

Thank you God for every member and friend of Mothers' Union in this diocese. May we all know your strength and encouragement as we seek to bring your love and help to our communities. We pray particularly for Emma, our chaplain and the newly elected trustee board, soon to be commissioned at our Festival Service. Thank you for calling them to serve you. We continue to reimagine what MU looks like and seek to work in new ways, as does the whole of your Church.

This is not easy, so we ask for your guidance and fresh vision.

We pray that the lingering pandemic and war in the Ukraine will not hinder the Lambeth Conference from taking place in Canterbury this summer. May it be an opportunity to meet Bishop Emmanuel and also to strengthen our Church of England Diocesan link with Madagascar.

We thank you that we have a new venue for this summer's Away From it All holidays.

We pray for the team, our fundraising and that the families you chose will be invited.

Thank you for sustaining us through these most challenging times and although things feel very different may we always remember that your love never fails...it is new, every morning.

— **Bible Verse: Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

*Pause....*

We pray for all our members throughout the world. May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them so that they may work to your praise and glory. May we always see the world through the eyes of Christ, speak to those we meet with the words of Christ and take with us on our journey the peace of Christ.

**Amen**

## **SENDING OUT**

**Hymn:** (or music of your choice)

**Great is thy faithfulness.**

**All Transform our struggles  
into victories.**

**Transform our doubting  
into certainty.**

**Transform our stumbles  
into confidence.**

**Transform our sorrow  
into worshipping,  
gracious God, we pray.**

**Amen.**

Even if we are apart let us now join together and say

**All May 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.**

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