

Midday Prayers 2020: Building hope and confidence

October

Diversity

Monday: Celebration of diversity

God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

**God of all peoples and nations
we praise you for
the wonderful differences
of colour and culture
of creeds and clans
that make up the human race.**

God of all flora and fauna
we rejoice in the
manifold beauty of your creation;
of scents and sounds,
of pattern and design
that make up the natural world.

God of all gifting and talent
we praise you for
the riches of skills and abilities;
of music and arts,
of crafting and science
that enhance our lives together.

**Lord of heaven and earth,
we celebrate the diversity
of your wondrous creation.
All you have made is very good;
we bless your holy name.
Amen**

Tuesday: Unity in diversity

There before me was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, tribe, people and language,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb...

And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’

Revelation 7:9-10

**God of all peoples and nations,
we pray that through your wondrous grace
we may be a shining example of unity in diversity.**

May differing styles of worship
and diverse doctrinal stances,
shared in mutual humility,
enrich and bring spiritual depth.

May sharing of vision
and distinctiveness of mission,
outworked in a variety of ways,
empower and bring great joy.

**So hope may be given
to a complex world
in the name of Christ.
Amen**

Wednesday: Diversity of gifting

We are many parts of one body,
and we all belong to each other.
In his grace, God has given us different gifts
for doing certain things well.

Romans 12:5-6

Lord, we each have some gifts,
but none of us has them all.
We each have something to contribute to others,
and equally something to receive from them in turn.

You call us all to be part of your body
with a unique role to play within it,
as we belong to an interdependent whole
where every member is of vital importance.

**Teach us, then,
not only to exercise our own gifts wisely
but also to appreciate those of others,
and so may we grow together,
building one another up in love,
to the glory of your name.**

Amen

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Thursday: Equality in diversity

God created humankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them.

Genesis 1:27

**We thank you, Lord,
for in your loving wisdom
you created one human family
with a diversity that
enriches our communities.**

May we always recognise
each member of this human family
as being made in your image and beloved by you,
with worth and dignity.

**May we envision a way forward
to heal the racial divisions
that deny human dignity and
the bonds between all human beings.**

May we affirm each person's dignity
through fair access for all
to economic opportunity, housing,
education, and employment.

**We thank you, Lord,
for your call and challenge to us
to proclaim that we are all your children,
heirs to your sacred creation.**

Amen

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Friday: Diversity of creation

O Lord, how many and varied are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your riches and your creatures.
Psalm 104:24 (AMP)

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we delight in your abundance
with full and thankful hearts.**

One crop, one fruit, one seed,
one flower, one creature, one race.
If all creation was one of each kind,
we would overflow with gratitude and praise.
Yet, Lord, we are blessed by your lavish abundance;
we marvel at nature's diversity.

Creator of heaven and earth,
we give you thanks for nature's rich variety.
Creator of sea and sky
we praise you for nature's wondrous array.

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we celebrate your abundance
with full and thankful hearts.
Amen**

Saturday: Celebration of diversity

In Christ all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible... all things have been created through him and for him.
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17

**Good and gracious God,
who loves and delights in all people,
we stand in awe before you,
knowing that the spark of life
within each person on earth
is the spark of your divine life.**

Differences among cultures and races
are multi-coloured manifestations of your Light.

**May our hearts and minds be open
to celebrate similarities and differences
among our sisters and brothers.**

We place our hopes for racial harmony
in our committed action
and in your presence in our neighbour.

May all peoples live in peace.

Amen

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Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union

Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

1-3 Nzara in South Sudan; North Kigezi in Uganda; Kivu in Rwanda;
Damataru in Nigeria; Auckland in New Zealand and Vanuatu and New
Caledonia in Vanuatu

4 Mothers' Union worldwide

5 – 7 Mbhashe in South Africa; Kitgum in Uganda; Ukwa & Ilesa South-West in
Nigeria; Tasmania in Australia and Central Melanesia in Solomon Islands

8 – 10 Ethiopia; Zanzibar in Tanzania; Awgu/Aninri in Nigeria; Freetown in
Sierra Leone; Monmouth in Wales and Malaita in Solomon Islands

11 Mothers' Union worldwide

12 – 14 Ezo in South Sudan; Thika in Kenya; Jos & Akoko in Nigeria; in Europe
and União de Mulheres Episcopais Anglicanas do Brasil (UMEAB) in Brazil

15 – 17 Terekeka in South Sudan; Nairobi in Kenya; Maiduguri & Osun North in
Nigeria; Edinburgh in Scotland and Calcutta in India

18 Mothers' Union worldwide

19– 21 High Veld in South Africa; Nambale in Kenya; Niger-Delta in Nigeria;
in Guinea; Blackburn in England and Bhopal in India

22 – 24 Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa; Kitui in Kenya; Kano & Kwara in
Nigeria; Armidale in Australia and Myitkyina in Myanmar

25 Mothers' Union worldwide

26 – 28 Malakal in South Sudan; All Saints Cathedral in Kenya; Kontagora & Osun
North East in Nigeria; Glasgow & Galloway in Scotland and Pune in India

29 – 31 Luapula in Zambia; Nakuru in Kenya; South Rwenzori in Uganda; Ibadan-
North in Nigeria; Connor in All Ireland and Pusan in South Korea

Final Blessing

**May the blessing of the God of diversity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bind us together in unity
to reflect his love to the world. Amen**