



# Mothers' Union London Diocesan Festival

Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

7.30pm

Service led by  
Revd. Helen Askwith, Willesden MU Area Chaplain

Address by  
Sheran Harper, MU World Wide President

Viewers are asked to please keep their devices on mute unless they are actively participating in the service i.e. readings, intercessions. This improves the quality of the sound.

All text in bold will be said by Pauline McCalla – AVP Willesden

## **Welcome and Worship**

*Given by*

The Revd. Helen Askwith – Willesden MU Area Chaplain

Welcome to our Mothers' Union act of worship. We gather to remember and reflect; to acknowledge and lament loss of all kinds over the past few months. We gather to bring our thanks for God's steadfast love and to affirm our hope for the future.

We take a few moments in the quiet to look around and find joy and comfort in familiar faces; to mourn the ones who are absent from us. We make ready to look back and remember what has been lost; to look to God for assurance and hope.

The Lord is Good

**Our refuge and deliverer**

He cares for those who hope in him.

**We draw near to him in faith**

God of hope,

We come into your presence this day

With confidence that you will meet us here

Where there is sadness, bring joy;

Where there is tiredness, bring refreshment;

Where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.

Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe haven for us, a home for holy words and songs and prayers

As we devote ourselves to you.

We pray this in Jesus' name **Amen**

### Opening Hymn

All my hope on God is founded

### Opening Prayer

Ever present God,  
you walk with us  
through good times  
and bad,  
mountain top and valley deep,  
your footsteps our guide,  
hands our support.

Ever present God,  
you are close to us  
when life is smooth or rough  
in wholeness  
and brokenness  
your healing our hope,  
your touch our desire

**Ever present God,  
bring comfort and peace  
and warmth  
of your presence  
and we shall fear nothing,  
for you are with us,  
always. Amen**

**Old Testament Reading: Lamentations 3:20-26**

Gogo-Rose Ilo, Faith and Policy committee

I well remember my troubles  
and my soul is downcast within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“the Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in Him.”  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
To the soul who seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **New Testament Reading: Mark 4:35-39**

Margaret Blazey, Finance and Office

That day when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were no other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Hymn

In Christ alone

## Time of reflection

We take time to lament:

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted  
**May God, in our grieving, be our comfort.**  
**In times of sorrow may he give us peace**

We take time to remember:

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds  
Healing their pain and comforting their sorrow.  
**May God, in our remembering, be our companion.**  
**In times of sadness may he share our loss**

We take time to be assured:

The eternal God is your refuge,  
And underneath are everlasting arms  
**May God, in our uncertainty, be our shelter.**  
**In times of unease may he keep us secure**

We take time to hope:

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,  
Even as we put our hope in you  
**May God, in his mercy, lighten our spirit.**  
**As we look to the future may he give us hope. Amen**

Our world has changed  
yet you remain the same.

The storms threaten  
yet you speak peace.  
We mourn our losses  
You wipe away every tear.  
Weeping may last through the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

**Loving Lord,  
who wipes away every tear from our eye,  
draw near as we mourn the loss  
of that which is dear.  
In the midst of sorrow be our comfort,  
in the place of sadness be our hope Amen.**

### **Address**

*Given by our World Wide President – Sheran Harper*

### **Hymn**

One day at a time, sweet Jesus

### **Intercessions** – led by Antonio Joseph

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

### **The Mothers' Union Prayer – Sue Johnson DP**

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 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**

### **Final Prayers**

**God of all hopefulness,  
when disappointments weigh us down  
open our eyes to see your creative ways;  
new plans for life, new instances of grace.**

We pray for renewed vision:  
to see a path of life  
emerging through the wilderness  
of former hopes and dreams.

We pray for clear vision:  
to see a stream of grace  
flowing through the wasteland  
of loss and disappointments.

**God of all hopefulness,  
inspire us with fresh revelation  
of your plans for our lives and our world.  
Instil in us a sense of adventure  
to embrace what lies ahead  
with anticipation and hope. Amen**

### **Final Hymn**

**How great thou art**

## Final Blessing

We praise you, our merciful God,  
for your steadfast love upholds us  
through every circumstance of life.

In the midst of the storm  
**You give us your peace.**  
In the warmth of the sun  
**You give us your joy**  
In the sight of the rainbow  
**You give us your hope. Amen**

*We say the grace together.*

## St Augustine quote on hope

Hope has two daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are, and courage to see that they do not remain as they are

Grateful thanks to Revd Helen for leading our worship; Sheran Harper for her encouraging words; members who took part in service and to Antonio for facilitating the service.