

**Winchester Diocesan Mothers' Union Lady Day Service – via Zoom
10.30am Thursday 25th March 2021**

Stella Welcome

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Lady Day Service. The obedience and faith of Mary is a wonderful example to us as we reach out in service to families and communities. It is this that we gather to celebrate, give thanks for and be inspired by, as we seek to follow God in whichever way he calls.

Terry Call to worship

I will sing of the Lord's great love for ever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

Psalm 89:1

We gather to glorify the Lord
with open hearts and voices.

We gather to rejoice in God our Saviour
who has done great things for us.

Holy is his name. **Amen**

Opening Hymn: Brother, Sister let me serve you

**Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Words and Music: Richard A M Gillard (b 1953)

Tune: The Servant Song

Jenny Confession

Lord, you call us to lives of obedience and faith
as the example of Mary portrays.

**Forgive us when we close our ears to your voice
and surrender to doubt and fear.**

Lord, you call us to lives of acceptance and praise
as the example of Mary displays.

**Forgive us when we refuse the narrow path
and protest in selfishness.**

God of mercy and grace forgive our faults and weaknesses.

Transform us into people of obedience and faith.

Terry Absolution:

Helen Opening ourselves to the word of God

When does an ordinary life
Become extraordinary
A mundane day
Become revolutionary
A moment in time
Change history?
When God enters in
Forgives sin
Allows us to
Begin again
When we repeat
Those words of Mary
'May it be to me As you have said'

John Birch

Scripture Reading *Luke 1: 30-33; 35-38*

Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.

"May it be to me as you have said."

Terry Talk/ Reflection

Lou Rededication of Mothers' Union membership

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations.
May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us –
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:1, 17

Faithful God, we rededicate and reaffirm ourselves to your purposes for Mothers' Union; for your praise and glory. Amen

As members of Mothers' Union:

We pray that we will continue to be a people who honour and worship your name. **Lord, may it be done according to your goodness and grace.**

We pray that we will continue to be a people who seek and follow your will.

Lord, may it be done according to your goodness and grace.

We pray that we will continue to be a people who reach out to the world with your love.

Lord, may it be done according to your goodness and grace.

God of all generations, we rededicate and reaffirm ourselves to your service.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Lord, may it be done according to your goodness and grace. Amen

The 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

Stella Thanksgiving and intercessions

(including prayers for the Worldwide Mothers' Union and our MU links)

As we are inspired by the obedience and faith of Mary, so we also remember the obedience and faith of our founder, Mary Sumner, who, in her day, followed the calling of God upon her life. We pray that we, too, will be willing to follow God in obedience and faith, with thanksgiving and praise.

Lord God, you choose the very least and raise us up to greatness

For nothing is impossible with God

You take the weak, the poor and blind and raise us out of darkness

For nothing is impossible with God

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

Teach us obedience, Lord
In every part of our lives
Ears to hear your word
Hands to do your work
Feet to walk your path
A heart for all your people
A mouth to shout your praise
A childlike faith
Humility
Confidence
That says
To the possible
And the impossible

I am the Lord's servant
May it be to me as you have said. Amen

John Birch

The Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

During a time of silent prayer individuals may light a candle as a symbolic offering of their obedience and faith.

We offer up this light as a symbol of our obedience and faith.
**May we shine with the light of Christ
for a life lived in service and worship to God. Amen**

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 to 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 for evermore!**

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Terry Final Blessing

O Lord Jesus Christ give us, we pray,
the graces of Mary; faith, patience, ready obedience,
thankfulness and courage. **Amen**

Go into the world to glorify the Lord,
and rejoice in your Saviour,
through your obedience and faith;
through the witness of your lives. **Amen**

And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with us all now and ever more. . **Amen**