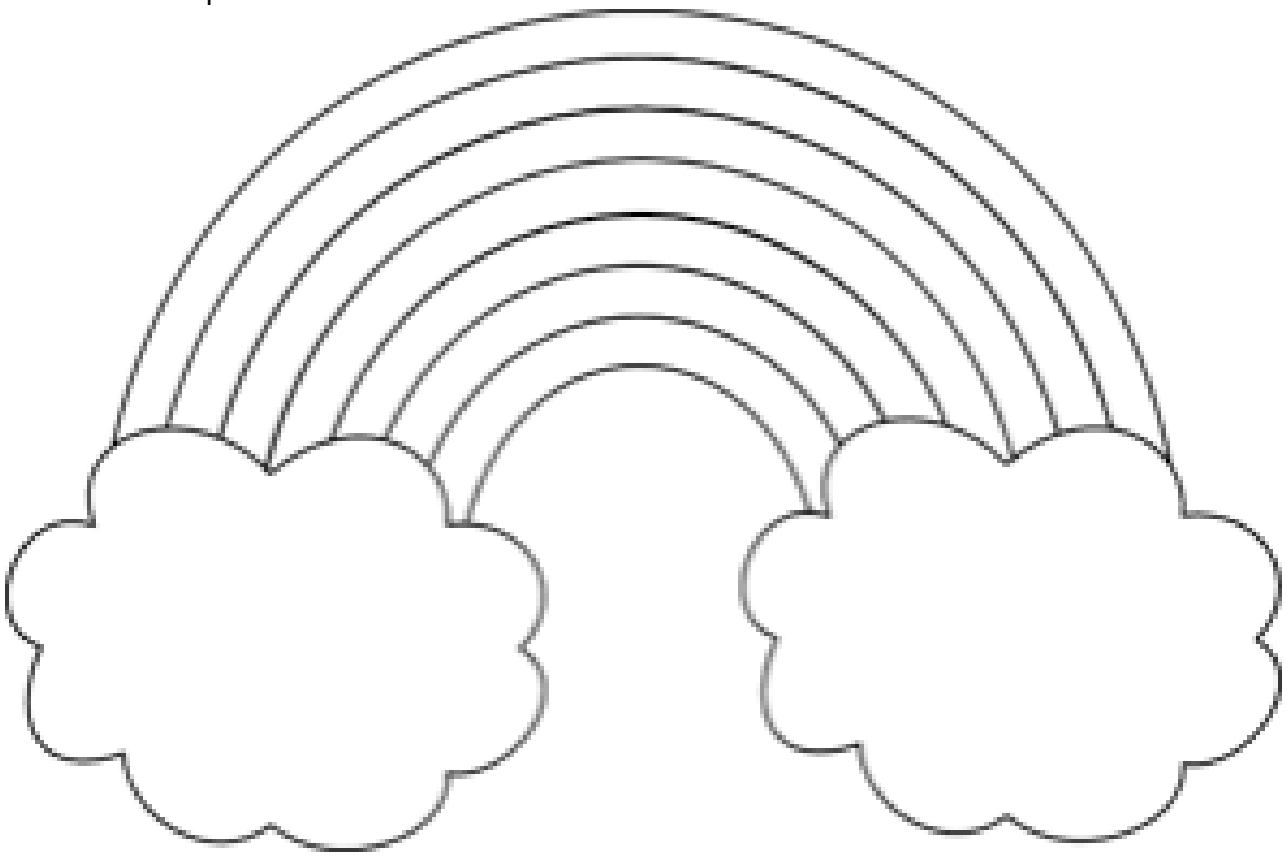
November Reflection

Who is on the Lord's Side?

In Durban we celebrated the different cultures represented, each wearing their traditional colours and costume. We were indeed, "a rainbow people". Our World President, Kathleen Snow, said on many occasions, Mothers' Union looks different across the World, but we are all one in our commitment to a faithful God who has brought us together to celebrate 150 years since our foundation. God be praised!

What are your particular thanksgivings looking back over your own membership?



You may like to colour this symbol and write your thanksgivings on the rainbow. The rainbow was a sign of the Covenant God made to Noah. In Durban we committed our lives anew to continue in God's Way as he has shown us in the Life of his Son Jesus. To be people of prayerful action, transforming lives and bringing hope to the people who's lives we touch day by day.

Let us each day follow in the footsteps of Mary Sumner reciting her daily Prayer.

Mary Sumner's Prayer All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

In this celebratory year we have been encouraged to sing the words and to sign the words https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CR7cryxTB/

We thank the talented people who have given us new ways of praying this familiar prayer. Signing reminds us of the need to include people with different needs and of course Mary Sumner had no limits to this prayer, whoever the Lord placed in her daily life, she became an instrument of his Love, compassion and peace. As we often repeated at the Global Gathering. "God is good, all of the time. All of the time God is good".

Jesus is both challenging and prophetic in his understanding of opening this channel of Love, "You have heard in the Law, love your neighbour and hate your enemy" but I say,

"Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" (Matt 5:43-48) This love that Jesus talks about is not a romantic love or a friendship we feel for those we like, it is "agape" the selfless sacrificial love of the Divine for all of creation. Agape does not wait for the "enemy" to change before it offers prayer. It is the love that seeks the well being of the "other" simply because they too are a child of God. It is prayer for the person who does not think like me, does not share the same believe as me, who I identify as the enemy. We pray for "the other" to meet with Christ and we pray for the Spirit to touch their hearts. We pray for hope, peace, faith and love for God's Kingdom to come.

So, if we pray as Christ bids us, it is also a prayer that commits us to be a transforming presence in God's World, raising awareness of injustices and actively becoming part of the change. In Durban, Bishop Vicentia Kgabe, Bishop of Pretoria, in her powerful keynote address to the gathering challenged us to be, "A Holy Disturbance'' This is a good phrase to ponder as, this month, we prepare for the 16 days of activism. This is what it means "to be on the Lord's side".