

Midday Prayers 2024: Transformation – Now! May - Building God's Kingdom

Monday - The power of the Holy Spirit

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. Different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is this same God at work.” - *1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

‘Fan into flame the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Use them to build up everyone else! The least, greatest, youngest and oldest can all do this and the church will grow in love. Expect prophecies, healings and other miracles whenever you meet – then on the streets and by sick beds. See the Kingdom of God come.’ - *Jackie Pullinger MBE Founder of St Stephen's Society*

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer Practice: Pray today about who you could invite to a MU activity.

Tuesday - The God who walks with us

“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” - *Psalms 29.11*

"In every step, the God who walks with us guides our journey's path." - *Paula Gooder Theologian and Anglican Lay Reader*

Eternal God, where war has destroyed and divided,
kindle the flame of hope;
where poverty has diminished and demoralised,
kindle the flame of hope;
where confidence has been drained and damaged,
kindle the flame of hope.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Practice: Go on a prayer walk around your neighbourhood; or recall a prayer walk you have made in the past.

Wednesday - The God who listens

“God's wisdom, in all its rich variety, is made known, through the church, to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places... In him, and through faith in him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” - *Eph3:10,12*

“In the stillness, the God who listens bestows solace and wisdom.” - *Tim Keller Co-founder City to City*

Almighty God, may Your kingdom reign in every corner of our existence. Guide us according to Your divine will,
and may Your purpose unfold in our journey.
Empower Your church to shine, serve, and share Your love.
Grant us the wisdom to align our lives personally and corporately
with the values of Your heavenly kingdom, reflecting Your glory. Amen.

Prayer Practice: As a group of MU friends, why not read the Lord's Prayer, discuss and then pray it together, with a pause between each phrase?

Thursday - The God who challenges & encourages

"Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."
- *Psalms 62:8*

"... What I have found essential is an attitude in every way of praying: open hands ready to receive and an honest heart – never hiding anything." *Archbishop Justin Welby*

Almighty God, may Your name be glorified.
Let Your kingdom manifest in our lives,
bringing forth Your holiness and righteousness.
To those whose faith has grown stale,
we pray the joy of freshness.
To those estranged from family and friends,
we pray the joy of reconciliation.
To those who live with conflict, we pray the joy of peace.
To all people in all places, we pray the joy of knowing Jesus
as Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Prayer Practice: In praying, 'Thy Kingdom Come', may we commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities. (*Archbishop Justin Welby*)

Friday – The God who loves

"Abide in me as I abide in you." - *John 15:4*

"A characteristic of Ignatian prayer is that at the start we are invited to ask for a grace, a gift from God. Today you are invited to ask for an intimate knowledge of the many blessings you have received; so that, filled with gratitude for all, you may in all things love and serve God." - *Sister MaryAnne Francalanza FCJ*

Gracious God, we pray for those longing to be accepted... longing to be acknowledged... longing to be given a second chance... longing to be loved... May your kingdom come and transform their longing into joy. Amen.

Prayer Practice: Write a gratitude list and thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon you

Saturday - The God who empowers

'... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' - *Joshua 24:15c*

"This is our routine: before bedtime we sit together as a family, light a candle, pray and sing some hymns and songs. If the little one says just one or two words – "thank you" – then that was it, that was their prayer.' - *Raheela Irfan & Revd Irfan John Synod Enabler for Culturally Diverse Congregations (Wales)*

Lord of the Way, the Truth and the Life,
guide families to weave discipleship into daily life,
nurturing faith, love and wisdom in each other;
guide us in nurturing our own families in faith,
that they may be assured of the love of Christ in their lives. Amen.

Prayer Practice: Pray for Mothers' Union as we seek to encourage Christian families to teach discipleship in their homes.

Wave of Prayer for May 2024

1-2 May: Aru in DR Congo; Kigezi in Uganda; Ikeduru in Nigeria; Ho in Ghana; York in England and Guyana & Suriname in Guyana

3 May: Mothers Union locally / branch leaders

4-6 May: Uppershire in Malawi; Maralal Missionary Area in Kenya; Makurdi & Ifo in Nigeria; Tuam, Killala & Achonry in All Ireland and Mumbai in India

7-9 May: Torit in South Sudan; Meru in Kenya; Ikwuano in Nigeria; Sekondi in Ghana and The Arctic in Canada

10 May: Mothers Union nationally / Mary Sumner House staff

11-13 May: Twic East in South Sudan; Rorya in Tanzania; Owerri & Ughelli in Nigeria; Gippsland in Australia and Cashel & Ossory in All Ireland

14-16 May: Maridi in South Sudan; Kirinyaga in Kenya; Zaki-Biam & Ijesa North-East in Nigeria and Waikato & Taranaki in New Zealand

17 May: MU world wide / WW President (Sheran Harper) and CEO (Bev Julien)

18-20 May: Grahamstown in South Africa; Masasi in Tanzania; Afikpo in Nigeria; Wiawso in Ghana; Chester in England and Northern Argentina in Argentina

21-23 May: Christ the King in South Africa; East Rwenzori in Uganda; Gombe & New Busa in Nigeria and Bunbury in Australia

24 May: Mothers Union in the Diocese / Diocesan President and VPs

25-27 May: Bor in South Sudan; Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; Oru & Oleh in Nigeria;
Rockhampton in Australia and Agra in India

28-30 May: Angola; North Ankole in Uganda; Okene & Ibadan-South in Nigeria; Aberdeen &
Orkney in Scotland and Karnataka South in India

In closing we pray the monthly prayer

Our Lord and heavenly King,
fill our lives with the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith to trust in you
and set our hearts to pursue your ways,
that we may work in partnership
to build your kingdom on earth