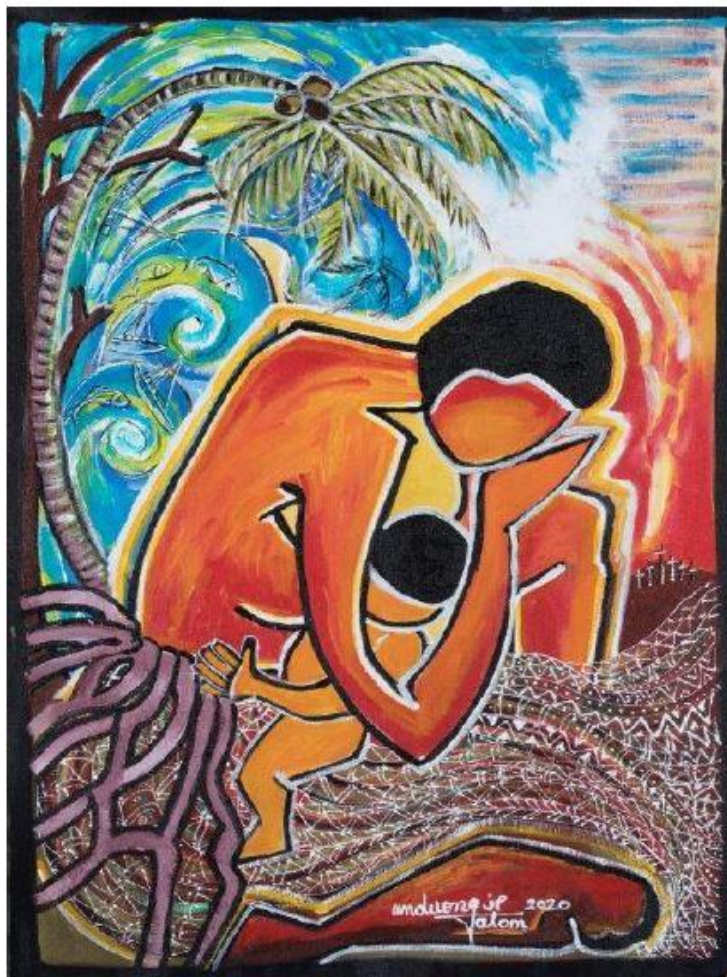


Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

‘Build on a strong foundation’



Service written by the Christian women of Vanuatu

# **Welcome** to World Day of Prayer 2021

Hosted by Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**“Build on a Strong Foundation”**

**Prepared by WDP Vanuatu.**

**It is with joy that we share this  
Order of Service from materials**

**prepared for the 2021 WDP celebration.**

**One of the first things we learn with Vanuatu women is that “Land to a Ni-Vanuatu is what a mother is to a baby.” The relationship with land is at the foundation of the Ni-Vanuatu identity and spiritual strength.**

**This order of service is for you to use as you are able: some of you may wish simply to read it, whether silently or aloud. Others may wish to listen, and even join in with the singing.**

**If you want to join in the whole service, follow the link which you'll find on our website: [www.stmungos.freeuk.com](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com) Full Video <https://youtu.be/pvb3GbljxY>**

**If you would like to listen to just the stories, prayers, address, dial 01968 700121. There will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.**

**WELCOME** to the 2021 World Day of Prayer, prepared by Christian women of the Republic of Vanuatu. We welcome our sisters and brothers around the world in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Song:** Father we love you (Mission Praise 142/ Singing the Faith 6)

*Donna Adkins © Maranatha Music*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Reader Agnes Ovenstone StM**

**Leader:** Let us hear the words in the first verses of Psalm 127 (NIV). Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

**All:** Happy is everyone who trusts the house-builder, God.

Let us be one of those! Amen.

**Song:** Listening to the Voices from Vanuatu

*Adapted from a hymn written by WDP Vanuatu.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Reader Agnes Ovenstone StM**

**Leader:** Let us be thankful for the great things God has done.

Holy, Holy, Holy God,

Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them,

You are present in the history of your people, yesterday to today.

Loving God, on whom Vanuatu stands, we adore you.

For our fellowship with each other and with sisters and brothers around the world gathered by World Day of Prayer,

**All: We thank you.**

For the great and wonderful things in our lives and nations.

For the authority, wisdom, knowledge and understanding

You grant us, to care for all beautiful islands and countries,

**All: We thank you.**

For the fertile lands, for the fresh air, clean environment, beautiful sunshine, blue seas and still waters of Vanuatu islands.

**All: We thank you.**

For the sweet melody of the birds, the sound of land animals,

the mystery of the fish in the sea and rivers. For waterfalls that rain down and serenely declare your greatness and power,

**All: We thank you**

For children singing, laughing, shouting; for the prayers and songs of old and young, manifesting the joy of your love,

**All:** Praises, glory and honour be to you alone forever.

Life-Giving God, receive our praise. Amen

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Reader Sheena Allan PSAH**

**Leader:** Let us confess to God, who is faithful and just to forgive us.

(1 John 1:9).

Our Father in heaven, your name is holy. We stand in your house of grace to confess that we have listened to your words but have not acted on them. We do the things we should not do and leave undone the things we should.

**(Silence)**

We face adversities and challenges in our homes and nations. We build our homes, thinking we are building on the words of Jesus Christ, but actually building on sand. We long to be changed. Restore us, that we may do what is right and just.

Creator God, we confess that we have polluted the environment and harmed the creatures of the sea by throwing rubbish into their habitats. We endanger marine life and ruin sustainable livelihoods. We know we can change.

**(Silence)**

We confess and regret our wrongdoing and commit ourselves to fulfilling the mandate to be good stewards of your creation.

**All:** God, hear our prayers. Amen

## Prayer of Commitment

Reader Cathie Ramsay PNK

**Leader:** God is looking for a house to live in. Where is the house that you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?

(Isaiah 66:1-2, NIV).

We come humbly before you and pray that you will grant us your Spirit of wisdom and knowledge.

**(Silence)**

Teach us to discern the truth. Lead and guide us that we may live in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to you.

Humbly we offer ourselves to be a house that you can dwell in.

All: By the power of your word, transform our lives and our nations. Make us a household of justice and peace.

Gracious God, accept our commitment. Amen

**Song:** Christ be beside me (Church Hymnary 4th Edition 577)

*St Patrick's Breastplate adapted James Quinn. Tune: Bunessan*

## LISTENING TO THE VOICES FROM VANUATU

### Story of Rhetoh

Reader Cathie Ramsay PNK

This is the story of Rhetoh. She is the second child from a family of eight. Rhetoh left school at 11, as her family could only afford continued education for her older brother and not Rhetoh, as she was the second born and a girl. One day, hearing there was a sewing class for girls at a local centre, she applied and was accepted, but was disheartened that her dad had no money to pay the fees, and nor did she have her own money to finance her studies.

With a strong desire to enhance her education but no opportunity to do so in the formal school system, Rhetoh turned her attention to the church as a place of learning. She joined the youth group, attended bible studies, and later, got involved with the women's ministry. With determination and faith, she found ways to educate herself and acquired skills to earn a living. She now makes items and sells them at the Mamas' Markets where other women like her, with little education, provide for their families with their new skills.

Blessed with three children, Rhetoh and her husband care for their God-given family, praising God for the blessings of their lives. Rhetoh thanks God for being the source of her strength, and for helping her put into practice what she has learned. She has become strong and wise in the Lord.

**(sing the verse 'Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah' MP 149)**

**Reader Christine Jackson StM**

Reader: In Vanuatu, many children in the rural areas walk long distances to school. Some have to leave home and attend boarding school from a very young age. Education for all is not mandatory. The school system is either in French or English. Bislama is a learned language to overcome communication barriers in the towns, but in rural areas they also have their own languages. Equal access to school for boys and girls is still a work in progress.

**Reader Gillian Little. St. James the Less**

Mothy: This is the story of Mothy. She and her little brother grew up in a single parent home. When their mother re-married, she left the children with their grandparents. After Mothy's dad remarried, he took the children to live with his new family. After their stepmother had children of her own, her attitude towards Mothy and her brother changed altogether.

As there were more children to feed, and no room in the house for all of them, Mothy had to find her own food in the streets and slept outside the house in a shack. She used an old copra sack as a blanket to protect her from the cold.

She met some Christians who told her that God loved her. Mothy could not understand this kind of love in the midst of her suffering, but she decided to trust that God would take care of her, even though her family was not sheltering her. This trust grew inside her and became the foundation of her life. She is now strong in her Christian faith, and shares her story with others that we should trust in God and his provision.

Today, she prays for children like her, growing up almost by themselves. May they know that God loves them and may children in every country around the world find a home.

**(sing the verse 'Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah')**

**Reader Christine Jackson StM**

Reader: Vanuatu's estimated population growth is one of the highest in the Pacific region. Malnutrition is a concern in both rural and urban areas. Although there's a strong tradition of growing organic food in gardens, the powdered milk and junk food industries are gaining access to babies and children.

**Reader Sheena Allan PSAH**

Jacklynda: This is the story of Jacklynda. She comes from a rural village. From her youth she had dreamt of working in tourism in Port Vila. She travelled there to get a job in hospitality, but she didn't have the training for her dream job. Jacklynda has no family in Port Vila, so she is living on the outskirts of the city, having no money for proper accommodation, food or the fare to return to her village. She knows that this is not the plan God has for her, but she doesn't know what to do. She prays that the rural area of Vanuatu be valued and young people find the opportunities they search for in their own communities. She trusts that God will provide for young people to grow and contribute to the wellbeing of Vanuatu.

(sing the verse 'Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah')

**Reader Christine Jackson StM**

Reader: With 75% of the population in rural areas with few employment options, young people have to migrate to the city. They go with minimal education and no trained skills to enable them to get work. High unemployment amongst young people creates a generation that sees no future, which is a great loss for the country. There is a need for policies and programmes for the betterment of the rural area, where the young people can stay in the community to be educated and have jobs.

**Song:** Jesus Christ is waiting (CH4 360)

*© WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G5 9JP, Scotland.*

## **LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Reader Margaret Black StM**

Leader: Let us hear the Word of God according to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 7, verses 24-27, where one of Jesus' parables is recorded:

"So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them is like a wise person who built their house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them is like a foolish person who built their house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!" Please use the parable and theme "Build on a strong foundation" to elaborate the meditation, sermon or group reflection.

**Reflection: Short Address**

**Rev John Urquhart StM**

**Song:** I'll hide God's word inside my heart (JP 378, adapted)

*Original version: Peter and Hanneke Jacobs*

## **PRAYERS FOR VANUATU AND THE WORLD**

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Reader Margaret Black StM**

Leader: Let us be united in prayer with Vanuatu and the world.

Everlasting God, the God on whom Vanuatu stands, help us stand for peace in our families and in our nations.

We commit the leaders and people of Vanuatu into your wise hands.

Help us stand against the forces of injustice and division present in our nations.

We pray that in Vanuatu and everywhere,  
we can all live in unity, love and peace,  
respecting and celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity.

**All:** Bind us together in love, peace and joy.

Leader: We ask for your protection for people living in places prone to cyclones,  
hurricanes and volcanoes and the damage they cause.

We bring you our concerns for those suffering from addictions.

**All:** Almighty God, protect our communities from disasters and suffering. Heal the souls  
of your people; let them feel love.

Leader: Let's pray together the Lord's Prayer.

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Song:** Let us build a house (CH4 198)

*© GIA Words & Music: Marty Haugen Tune: Two Oaks*

## **SENDING AND BLESSING**

**Reader Agnes Ovenstone StM**

Leader: God's dwelling presence is in and with us.

Let God guide you, lead you, restore you, and heal your nation.

Let God's will be done in your house, as it is in heaven.

Go, and build your house wisely, according to Jesus' words.

Go with these blessings

in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

**All:** This is our strong foundation –

we will follow Jesus,

who is the way, the truth and the life.

**Amen.**

**Recessional:** The day you gave us (CH4 220)

*John Ellerton Tune: St Clement*

## CREDITS

With thanks to members from the Penicuik churches for their parts in bringing this service to you.

### Presenters

Agnes Ovenstone	Penicuik St. Mungo's (StM)
Sheena Allan	Penicuik South and Howgate (PSAH)
Cathie Ramsay	Penicuik North Kirk (PNK)
Christine Jackson	Penicuik St. Mungo's (StM)
Gillian Little	Penicuik St. James the Less
Margaret Black	Penicuik St. Mungo's (StM)
Rev John Urquhart	Penicuik St. Mungo's (StM)

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