

Global Day 2020 Service outline

Welcome and call to worship

Welcome to our service which is part of Mothers' Union's global action against domestic and sexual abuse. As we raise our voices on behalf of the voiceless, we also raise our voices in worship and intercession to our loving righteous God.

I love the Lord because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.
Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!
Psalm 116:1-2 (NLT)

We draw near in faith to the Lord who draws near to us with love
and hears our prayers for mercy.

Opening hymn – When I needed a neighbour

Opening prayers and confession

Loving Lord,
who came to proclaim justice,
make us bold to speak out truth
and break the power of silence.

Loving Lord,
who came to minister mercy
make us agents of compassion
to release the oppressed from fear.

**Merciful and loving God,
forgive us when we have closed our eyes
to the sufferings of others;
when we have stayed silent
in the face of abuse and oppression;
when we have declined to challenge
unacceptable actions and attitudes.**

**Take away our selfishness
and fill us with new resolve
to proclaim justice and mercy
in the name of Christ. Amen**

Readings

Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:
‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
Luke 4:16-19

A Woman's Psalm

O God, I am a woman in a violent world
let me know your peace.

Let blind rage born of despair
not find its target in me.

Let the value of my life
not be reduced to the jewellery I wear.

Let my family life not end
that life in a gang may begin.

Let rape not violate my body
nor anger ravage my soul.

Let fear not enter my heart
but caution sharpen my mind.

Let the light of Christ so shine in me
that I may reflect your love.

Let the joy that the apostles knew
infuse my spirit and alleviate my pain.

Let Love who suffered and died on the cross
find resurrection and new life in the world you love.

O God, I am a woman in a violent world
let me know your peace.

Elizabeth Kaeton, (from Lifting Women's Voices: Canterbury Press; 2009)

Hymn – Mary's Magnificat

Homily

Intercessions

Great God we give you thanks that you call us out of silence
to name hidden and domestic violence.

We pray for all those women who despite suffering from violence, continue to care for family
and children, to grow and prepare food, carry water, earn a living and offer support to others.

We pray for women who are trafficked as domestic or sex workers; for women who are raped
and do not know how to find words to name their pain or a way into the future.

We pray for transformation of our societies which often find it easier to judge the victims of
violence than to solve the problems of injustice

We pray that women's voices may be heard and taken into account in all peace and reconciliation work.

We pray for a transformation in the violent way many men act towards and think about women.

We pray for right and just relations between women and men that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence

We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished, both women and men are able to love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.
World Council of Churches

Final Hymn – Christ be our light

Closing Prayers and Blessing

Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.

**To speak out
against the abuse of power;
especially in our homes.**

**To speak up
for those who have been pushed down
in any way.**

**To speak to
the needs of those who are suffering
at the hands of another.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who extended his forgiving hands to all. Amen** *Restored Church Pack*

May God give us eyes
to recognise abuse where it exists.
May God give us a heart
to reach out in compassion.
May God give us courage and resolve
to make a difference wherever we are.

And may God
guide our steps today,
this week and always.
Go in peace and in resolve. **Amen**
Source unknown