

## Prayers for Transformation

We pray for **Mpumalanga in South Africa, President Mrs Gulu Langa**: for their work to secure land for farming projects amongst poor families, and their campaigns against Gender Based Violence. *(See them on Facebook)*

Bring hope and help to all who are affected by domestic abuse or gender violence. May the **RISE UP** initiative raise awareness and help to transform the lives of those who suffer abuse.

We pray for communities across the world facing the challenges of climate change, and our exploitation of your gifts of creation. Help MU to transform old attitudes and to encourage initiatives to safeguard the environment for families in the future.

Bless the mission and ministry of this church... our clergy and all with responsibility.  
*Particular local prayers....*

Help MU members to be agents of your transforming love.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayers**

**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**

**Hymn: Hills of the north rejoice**

Loving Lord, may your love surround us.  
May your grace flow through us and from us.  
May our members know encouragement from you and from one another.  
May we know our value in your sight.  
May the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever, renew us, inspire us and equip us. In Jesus name, we pray. **Amen**

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore. Amen.**

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FAITH in ACTION by  
**Mothers UNION**  
in Newcastle Diocese



[www.munewcastle.org.uk](http://www.munewcastle.org.uk)

## WAVE of PRAYER Service: Newcastle

*The MU Wave of Prayer between 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec features the five dioceses linked with Newcastle Diocese: Zonkwa in Northern Nigeria, Barrackpore in North India, Bo in Sierra Leone, Central Buganda in Uganda and Mpumalanga in South Africa.*

*This simple liturgy, with optional hymns, is shaped so that it may be used at any time during Advent, Christmas or Epiphany, and can be adapted to include prayers for other difficult situations locally or internationally.*

*(Please have 3 candles ready to light)*

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## Welcome to our time of worship.

In a time of world-wide uncertainty and turmoil, we come together to unite our prayers with our MU sisters and brothers across the world. We give thanks for all that has been and pray for all that will be.

## Lord, lighten our darkness *(Advent-tide)*

Like a candle flame,  
flickering small in our darkness,  
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.  
**All: God is with us, alleluia.**

*Light one candle – a sign of waiting*

‘Though I have fallen, I will rise.  
Though I sit in darkness,  
the Lord will be my light.’ *Micah 7.8*

**Hymn** *Longing for light (Christ be our Light)*  
*Or Thou whose almighty word*

## Gospel: John 1.1-3

‘In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning, and through Him all things were made.’

## Prayers for Light in life's dark places

Lord of Light, bring the Wisdom of your Word, the Light of your Love and the Spirit of Truth into our relationships with one another across the boundaries of race, culture and faith.

We pray for **MU members in Zonkwa, Northern Nigeria, President Mrs Rhoda Kwashi**: for their witness in a mainly Muslim region; their Bible study courses for both women and men; and training programmes to enable women to set up small businesses.

We pray for **MU members in Barrackpore in North India** – who work ecumenically, alongside Women's Fellowship, to run 24 schools.

Help your people to reflect your light into the dark corners of the world, unfolding your gospel in word and action. Bring comfort to those in pain, hope to those who live in fear and a hand to those who are lost. Bless the work of teachers and community workers as they shine a light on future opportunities.

*RISE UP Prayers for those in the dark places of gender abuse...*

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayers**  
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## Lord, lighten our days *(Christmas-tide)*

Light of the world  
you stepped down into darkness,  
opened our eyes, let us see  
beauty that made our hearts adore you,  
**All: hope of a life spent with you**

*Light a 2<sup>nd</sup> candle – a sign of the Nativity*

'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.' *Isaiah 60.1*

**Hymn:** *Thou didst leave thy throne  
Or Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.*

## Gospel: John 1.4-5

'In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it.'

## Prayers for the Light of Christ's presence

Lord of Light, be born into the hearts and minds of all who hold responsibility for the welfare of others and community life.

We pray for **Bo in Sierra Leone, President Mrs Solomon Scott-Manga** – where they have suffered badly through Ebola and Covid and where many MU members have adopted Ebola orphans. Bless their work in running nursery schools and teaching literacy; also their work in prisons and food agriculture.

We pray for **Central Buganda in Uganda, President Mrs Jenepher Lubowa**: for their 'Wheels' appeal providing essential transport so that girls can attend school; also the 'Eagle Programme' empowering communities to take control of their own lives, improving health facilities and educating about HIV.

Bring the light of hope and peace to families & children in need, refugees, asylum seekers, and those entrapped by conflict or natural disasters... Strengthen those who seek to bring relief and practical help...

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayers**

## The Lord's Prayer -----

## Lord, lighten our ways *(Epiphany-tide)*

Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
**All: guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

*Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle – a sign of transformation*

'Rise up! This matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage, and do it.'

*Ezra 10.4*

## Hymn:

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,*

## Gospel: John 1.14

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'