

Notes, Suggestions and Ideas for the Mary Sumner Day Service

This service is intended for adaptation to local circumstances and needs. Please feel free to change wording here and there in order to make the worship more appropriate for local circumstances. The service is intended for All Age Worship and can stand on its own or include a Eucharist, which can be incorporated just after the Exchange of the Peace. The Lord's Prayer may be included after the Intercessions (or, if a Communion Service, after the Eucharistic Prayer) and the Mothers' Union Prayer just before the Peace.

Suitable music and/or dance may be included when offering the work of Mothers' Union.

A variety of people and age groups could be asked to participate by reading or leading various parts of the service.

The Space

Aim to use the worship area creatively if you can. Gather as much information, photographs, artefacts or symbols representing the work of Mothers' Union to decorate the worship area. Add colour by using flags or banners to wave over the congregation or to place at focal points around the worship area. If there is not already a large cross in a prominent place in the worship area, display one (or more) at a focal point in the room.

Candles may be lit during the first hymn and more during the intercessions.

Include, if possible, flowers in bud and young seedlings to symbolise our calling to new life in Christ.

Including the Congregation

There are prayers and readings throughout where different people may speak. This can be done from their position in the congregation or group, but if a sound system is in use they should gather near to a microphone at the appropriate time, returning to their seat at the end of the whole prayer or reading.

Drama could be included instead of, or as well as, a sermon, or one of the Readings could be dramatised.

A collection could be offered to further the work of Mothers' Union. Celebrate the work that Mary Sumner began and that has culminated in the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

What Can the Children Do?

Find out as much as you can about your link dioceses, encourage contact between the children in your Sunday School and one or more Sunday Schools in your link dioceses. If you do this well in advance of the service you may be able to display letters, drawings and photographs as part of your celebration. The children could use these to create a montage on a wall or display board.

We are called to take our places as branches of the vine. Perhaps the children could create a collage of a tree or vine and write their names on the branches. The adults in the congregation could add their names during the service.

Children could also be encouraged to create colourful banners and flags to decorate the worship area.

Suggested Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-20
Proverbs 24. 3-4, 12-14
Isaiah 6:1-8
Matthew 4:18-22
Matthew 15:21-28
Luke 11. 9-13
John 17:20-26
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Hebrews 13. 1-5

Suggested Hymns / Songs

Breathe on me, Breath of God
Called to be servants (James G Johnston)
Christ's is the world in which we move (John L Bell and Graham Maule)
Come! Live in the light! (We are called) (David Haas)
Do not be afraid (Gerald Markland)
From heaven you came, helpless babe (The Servant King)
God forgave my sin (Feely, freely) (Carol Owens)
God has chosen me (Bernadette Farrell)
Here in this place (Gather us in) (Marty Haugen) (for a Eucharist)
I danced in the morning
If I were a butterfly (for children)
I, the Lord of sea and sky (Here I am. Lord)
Just as I am
Longing for light (Christ be our light!) (Bernadette Farrell)
Look around you, can you see? (Kyrie eleison) (Jodi Page Clark)
Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour (Bernadette Farrell)
O Jesus, I have promised
Sent by the Lord am I (Nicaraguan traditional, tr. Jorge Maldonado)
Will you come and follow me