

## A Service for Lady Day 2022

### Welcome

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Lady Day Service. The example of Mary and her response to God is particularly significant in the year when our annual theme is "Transformation-Now!" As we gather to celebrate and be inspired by Mary's willing obedience, so we seek to be transformed by God personally and as a movement, that we may serve him in the world Christ was born to save.

### Call to worship

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things!  
*Psalm 98:1*

We gather to glorify the Lord  
**with open hearts and voices.**  
We gather to rejoice in God our Saviour  
**in whom all things are possible.**  
Holy is his name. **Amen**

### Opening hymn

### Confession

**Lord, you call us to come to you  
that our lives may be transformed.**

**You call us to listen and respond  
to your purposes for us.**

Lord of mercy and grace  
forgive our faults and weaknesses.  
Empower us to follow the example of Mary  
who answered your call with a willing heart.

**Transform us into people  
of vision and faith. Amen**

### Exploring the Word

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."  
The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.  
Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'  
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."  
*Luke 1:30-31, 35-38*

When does an ordinary life  
Become extraordinary  
A mundane day  
Become revolutionary  
A moment in time  
Change history?  
When God enters in  
Forgives sin  
Allows us to  
Begin again  
When we repeat  
Those words of Mary  
'May it be to me  
As you say'  
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Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.  
Through a poor young woman in a small town  
you gave birth to your realm of endless glory.  
By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope  
and overshadow us with your power and grace  
so that we, like Mary, might be your servants,  
bearing witness to the promise of your Word;  
through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.  
[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

### **Talk/ Reflection**

### **Hymn**

### **Thanksgiving and intercessions**

*You may also add your own intercessions for the transformation of  
your local MU, church and community initiatives*

When you come to us  
with gentle whisper  
or mighty wind,  
and ask what seems impossible  
to human minds,  
as you did to Mary,  
may our response  
not be to hesitate,  
make excuses  
or run away,  
but to echo instead  
those trusting  
and beautiful words,  
"I am the Lord's servant:  
may your word be fulfilled in me"

**For Mary's faithfulness  
and her life of service  
we thank you, Lord. Amen**

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Heavenly Father,  
You hold all possibilities in your hands and nothing is impossible with you.  
Make known your will for each one of us, though we may ask, "Who, me?"  
**Take us as we are and accept all we have.**  
**Let it be with us according to your word. Amen**

### **Symbolic Offering**

*During a time of silent prayer, you may like to distribute sachets of seeds to take away and plant as a symbolic offering of our willingness to be transformed in vision and service, and as an affirmation of our faith that all things are possible with God.*

We offer up these symbols of God's transforming work as we say "yes" to his plans and purposes for us.  
For with God all things are possible. **Amen**

### **Mothers' Union Prayer**

**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**

### **Final Blessing**

May we go into the world  
transformed in mind and heart,  
rejoicing in our glorious God  
in whom all things are possible. **Amen**