

Transformation – Now! 2023 Service of Thanksgiving

The notes for the 2022 Thanksgiving Service may be used for hymn suggestions etc.

Welcome and gathering

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Service. As we continue to pursue our God-inspired vision of transformation in our own lives, in MU and in the world, we gather to give thanks for God's leading thus far. We gather to recommit ourselves to seek God and take practical steps to make vision reality. We draw near in faith that all things are possible with God.

Call to worship

Let us draw near to God in faith;
we declare his power and glory!

As we gather to worship,
God, bring us to the mountain top
that we may be transformed
to serve you in the valley below.

God in Christ has revealed his glory;
we praise his name together! Amen

Opening hymn

Opening prayer

O God of the covenant,
the cloud of your splendour and the fire of your love
revealed your Son on the mountain heights.
Transform our lives in his image,
write your law of love on our hearts,
and make us prophets of your glory,
that we may lead others into your presence. **Amen**
From Revised Common Lectionary Prayers © 2002

Confession

**Forgive us, O God,
when we stumble in the darkness
and turn away from your face.**

Strengthen us to walk in your brightness
and live in your ways.

Enlighten the shadows
that keep us from growing
in your love and light.

**Shower us with your grace,
that we might shine as your people
upon this earth. Amen**

From Abingdon Worship Annual

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-7, 15 (NLT)

You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9: 2-9 (NLT)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. ⁴ Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified.

⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

⁹ As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

Talk/sharing of future vision and plans

Intercessions: Transformation-Now! Prayer

*You may like to adapt this prayer using some of the suggestions on the “2023 Transformation prayer resource” to make these intercessions particularly appropriate for your own context. You could include prayer for your own Diocesan initiatives and outreach; also for your link Dioceses. The lighting of candles are a symbol of God’s work of transformation for which we pray to be a part. You could light a candle for each stanza read by individuals * from a large candle lit at the beginning of the prayer. Or use your own ideas for a symbolic prayer offering.*

**Gracious God,
we put our trust in you.
Give us open hearts and minds
to discern your perfect direction
for our Mothers’ Union:**

*Affirm us in your love
that we may be bold to seek your face.

*Strengthen us with resolve
to embrace new ways with confidence.

*Unite us in heart and mind
that we may move forward with gladness.

*Inspire us in our faith
that all things are possible with God.

**Transform us into a people
empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope,
to effectively serve our communities. 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**

Final Hymn

Final blessing

As we go from here,
may we experience the presence of God with joy.
May the holy cloud comfort us.
May the divine voice encourage us.
May the power of the Spirit transform us,
and so transform our world. **Amen**
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Now may God, who shines upon us the light of his glory,
displayed in the face of Jesus Christ,
be with us and remain with us, now and always. **Amen**