



Resources for Mary Sumner Day

The following resources may be used for worship on Mary Sumner Day. Selections may be made from all or some of these depending on the style of worship used for your celebrations.

1. **Suggestions for Hymns** TIS 470; TIS 215; TIS 161; TIS 288; TIS 496; TIS 693
2. **A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia**, Page 46, sets out a simple liturgy which may be used alone or within the Eucharist of celebration on Mary Sumner Day. This liturgy also has suggestions for readings suitable for the day.
3. **Welcome**



Today we celebrate Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union. We celebrate her insight and perceptiveness in seeing what was needed and recognising the means by which the need could be met. Across the globe the 4 million members of Mothers' Union celebrate the life and faith of our founder. We pray for the mission of Mothers' Union as lived in so many countries. Mary Sumner's life showed clearly her belief in the vocation to prayer and the call to social action that flowed from it. These are the foundations on which MU has been built.

4. **Intercessions**
(Candles may be lit for each of the petitions in the Litany, as indicated.)

God of all generations, we praise and thank you for the life and work of Mary Sumner: for her concern for women and children,

and her desire to uphold Christian values

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For families who live where there is war, oppression, injustice and poverty

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For homes of peace and love, reflecting your love for us all.

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For wives and husbands, that they may grow ever deeper in love for each other. For grace to be able to forgive and be forgiven.

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For children to grow up to know and love you.

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For families who know the pain of illness of body, mind or spirit

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

For Mothers' Union across the world, that it may always be faithful in prayer and courageous in fulfilling its calling

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

A pause for silence. Candle to be lit.

Spirit of the living God

Hear our prayer

We end this time of prayer saying together Mary Sumner's personal prayer :

All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

For the Eucharist

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated the Seasonal variations for a Saint are to be found on page 159 and pages 641-642 of APBA. The full text is given below.

Opening sentence: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false; they will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Psalm 24.4-5

Collect for a saint :

O God, by whose grace your servant Mary Sumner became a burning and shining light in your Church: grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipleship, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Preface for the Prayer of Thanksgiving : *(This Preface uses images from Ephesians 5.)*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

You bless marriage and family life, and you call us to be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. In this you reveal the mystery of the love between Christ and the Church.

Therefore with angels and archangels...,

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Prayer after Communion :

God, the source of all holiness :
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims on earth
be welcomed with Mary Sumner and all your saints
to the heavenly feast in your kingdom.....