

World Day of Prayer

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

These activities related to:

- concern for women and children
- the role of prayer in mission work
- a vision of Christian unity
- biblical study as everyone's responsibility
- social issues and working with immigrants
- linking world peace with world mission

In 1926 the women of North America distributed the worship service to many countries and partners in mission. The response world-wide was enthusiastic; thus the call was issued for a world Day of Prayer.

For more information on the history of World Day of Prayer visit:

www.wwdp.org.uk

World Day of Prayer came to these islands through the missionary activity of a Scots woman, Grace Forgan, who heard of the movement at an international missionary gathering in Jerusalem in 1928. The first service was held in Scotland in 1930, then in England in 1932, Wales in 1933, Republic of Ireland in 1935 and Northern Ireland in 1943. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Day of Prayer is organised through:

- A **National Committee** that edits the service and prepares and distributes resource material to its branches
- **Regional Days** held around the country that help local branches to prepare for the next Day of Prayer
- Over 2,500 inter-denominational **Local Branch Committees** whose members promote the service in their churches and jointly organise the Day of Prayer in their area

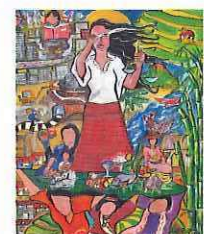
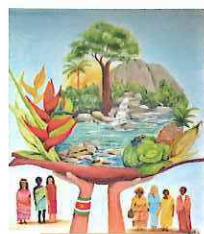
Offerings from the service are used to support the work of the World Day of Prayer and projects run by Christian Charities

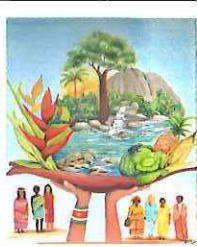
World Day of Prayer



A global ecumenical movement
of informed prayer
and prayerful action

FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH





World Day of Prayer

... is a world-wide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

More than 120 countries participate in an annual day of celebration which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions sharing together in God's word and worship

Through World Day of Prayer, Christians around the world:

- Affirm their faith in Jesus
- Share their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, opportunities and needs

Through World Day of Prayer we are encouraged to:

- Be enriched by the faith of Christians of other cultures
- Take up the burdens of other people and pray for them
- Become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation

World Day of Prayer

The worship service has a special annual theme. Through preparation and participation in this, we can come to know how people of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them. In this way it is possible to experience the richness of the Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

- 2020** Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk
– Zimbabwe
- 2021** Build on a Strong Foundation
– Vanuatu
- 2022** I know the plans I have for you
– England, Wales & Northern Ireland
- 2023** I have heard about your Faith
– Taiwan
- 2024** I beg you... bear with one another in love
– Palestine
- 2025** I made you wonderful
– Cook Islands
- 2026** I will give you rest: come
– Nigeria

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Every four or five years representatives of National/Regional Committees gather in a different area of the world to:

- Share experiences
- Select themes and writing countries
- Consider ways by which the movement may grow
- Elect an Ecumenical Committee with representatives from Africa, Asia, Caribbean/North America, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and the Pacific

Through World Day of Prayer, Christians affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

EACH GRAPHIC IN THE DECORATIVE BORDER REPRESENTS A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTED IN RECENT WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES.

