

Build on a Strong Foundation

Prayer of Intercession

Leader 1: Everlasting God, the God on whom Vanuatu stands, we ask you to help us stand for peace, in our nations and in our families. We commit the leaders and people of Vanuatu into your wise hands.

Leader 2: We stand against the forces of injustice present in our nations. Give us this authority over our islands and nations. We pray we can live in unity, love, and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity, like Vanuatu, and so many other places around the world.

All: Bind us together in love, peace, and joy.

Leader 3: We remember the people living in places prone to natural disasters and the hazards of cyclones, hurricanes and volcanoes. We lift up our concerns for those who are suffering from addiction.

All: Almighty God, protect the communities from disasters and suffering. Heal the souls of the people and help them feel your love.

Leader 4: Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Sending and Blessing

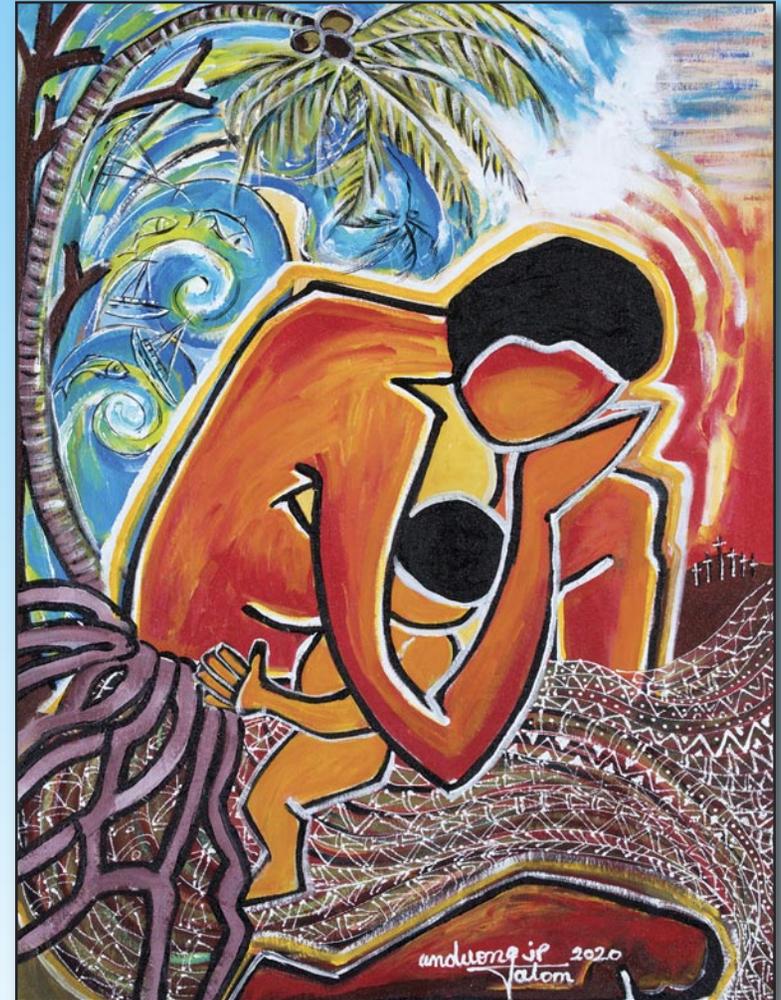
Leader 1: We welcome God's dwelling presence in and with us. Let God guide you, lead you, restore you, and heal your nation. Let God's will be done in your house as it is in heaven. Remember, as you go out, everyone who hears the words of Jesus and acts on them will be like a wise person and their house will withstand the floods. Go and build your house on Jesus' words. Go home with these blessings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

All: This is our strong foundation. We will follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Benediction Song: "Now Unto Him"



World Day of Prayer 2021 Build on a Strong Foundation



March 5, 2021 • Matthew 7:24-27
Worship Service

Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu
and the World Day of Prayer USA Committee

Processional

Song: “It Is Time to Get Together”

Welcome

Song: “Greetings to You”

Call to Worship

Leader 2: Let’s read together the first verses of Psalm 127.

All: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

Leader 2: Happy is everyone who trusts the housebuilder, God.

All: Amen.

Song: “Be Good Listeners”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader 3: Let us be thankful for the great things God has done. . . .
(*Leader offers thanks, concluding with . . . the joy of your love.*)

All: Praises, glory, and honor to you alone forever. Lifegiving God, receive our praise.

Prayer of Confession

Leader 4: Let’s confess to God, who is faithful and just, asking God to forgive us. . . . (*Leader offers prayer, concluding with the following.*) We regret, confess, and commit to fulfill the mandate to be good stewards of your creation.

All: God, hear our prayers.

Prayer of Commitment

Leader 1: God is looking for a resting place. Where is the house you will build for God? (Is. 66:1–2). We come before you, God, and pray you will grant us your wisdom and knowledge. Teach us to discern the truth. Lead and guide us to live in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to you. Humbly, we offer ourselves to be a house where you can dwell. By the power of your word, transform our lives and our nations. Make us like a household of justice and peace.

All: Gracious God, accept our commitment.

Listening to Voices from Vanuatu

Listening to the Word of God

Leader 2: Let’s hear the word of God according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 24–27. (*Reader reads scripture.*)

Leader 3: The main Bible text for this year’s World Day of Prayer is based on the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 7:24–27, specifically his instructions for entering the kingdom of heaven. (*Leader offers additional insights into the scripture, concluding with the following.*)

Reflect on the following questions and share with the person next to you:

1. Jesus used two verbs to emphasize his message: hear and act (vs 24 and 26). How do these verbs make you feel or what other scripture do they remind you of?
2. In your context, what makes someone wise? What makes someone foolish?
3. Imagine you were part of the crowd when Jesus gave these instructions. How would you have reacted?

Let us rise and build our homes, our nations and the world on the words of Jesus, who reminded us about the golden rule—“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you” (7:12). This is our solid foundation. This is the basic principle of our message today.

Offering

Song: “Surely Goodness and Mercy”

Prayer

Leader 4: Gracious God, we thank you and worship you for all the blessings you have bestowed on us, for family and friends, home, food and water. We praise you for leading us to be creative and able to support our families. We offer to you a small portion of these blessings of money and service. We dedicate them to the World Day of Prayer, knowing these gifts will be shared with communities in need here and around the world. Amen.

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