

World Day of Prayer 2026–Nigeria



Title: Rest for the Weary
Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah

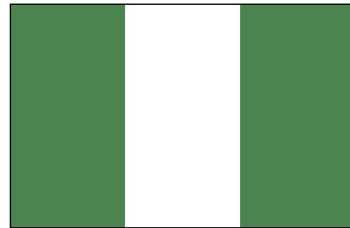
About the Artwork

The artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women, whose lives are marked by endless labor from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often

carrying both their harvest and their children - a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head, while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush.

The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria's diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying. These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation in **Matthew 11:28**, **"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."** When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.



Neethi Prasad, Chair - World Day of Prayer USA

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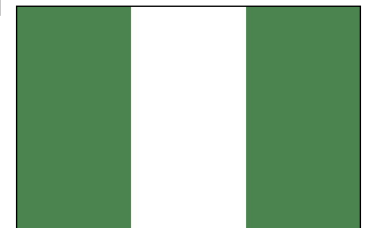
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World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together for an annual observance of a common day of prayer and action on the first Friday in March. Each

year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up in prayer the challenges and issues experienced by women and children across the globe. The WDP's motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." WDP promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service, and celebration.

The country of focus for WDP 2026 is Nigeria, and the theme "**I Will Give You Rest: Come**" is drawn from **Matthew 11:28-30**. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens – shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair – the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. The Nigerian WDP Committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

This year's worship service features a playlet about a young girl named **Chioma** and stories of three Nigerian women: **Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing**. Their experiences reveal how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope. The Bible Study explores divine rest from creation to Jesus' time, examining wisdom traditions and Jesus' transformation of rest from rigid rules to liberating mercy. Original music composed for the service includes a moving theme song by **Chisom R. Chukwumerije**. The song invites those who are weary and oppressed to find comfort and rest in God.

As we prepare for WDP 2026, may we learn to embody Jesus' invitation: "**Come to me, all you who are weary.**" Together, let us become channels of God's rest in our troubled world.

With prayerful regards,
Neethi Prasad
Chair – WDP-USA



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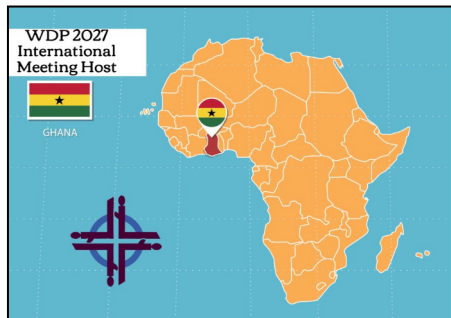
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Upcoming WDP Themes and Writers

WDP 2027

WDP will celebrate its Centennial in 2027, marking 100 years of uninterrupted global ecumenical prayer led by Christian women. The historic gathering for 2027 WDPIC International Meeting will be held in Ghana. The theme for 2027 is **“United in Prayer for Justice and Peace.”**



WDP 2028

The WDP Costa Rica Committee is busy preparing and planning for WDP 2028 with the theme **“Leading the Way in Grace,”** drawing inspiration from multiple scripture passages, including Joel 2:28, Isaiah 11:1–6, Jeremiah 1:4–8, and Luke 10:21–24.



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“I Will Give You Rest: Come”

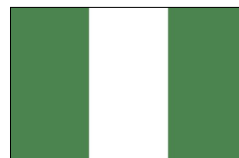
Matthew 11:28-30



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Worship Service Bulletin

(condensed liturgy along with song titles)



Prepared by the
WDP Committee of Nigeria
and the WDP USA Committee

Opening Song of Praise Keleya 

Opening Prayer 

Words of Welcome

Hymn of Invitation Art Thou Weary 

CHIOMA'S BURDEN

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV) 

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Response

Reader 1: Come to Jesus, all you who are weary.

All: We come.

Reader 1: Come to Jesus, all you who are carrying heavy burdens

All: We come.

Reader 1: God will give you rest.

All: God will give us rest.

Reader 1: Take on the yoke that Jesus offers. It is easy. It is light.

All: We receive this yoke.

Reader 1: Learn from the one who is gentle and humble in heart.

All: We are here to learn.

Reader 1: You will find rest for your souls.

All: Thanks be to God.

Theme Song Come Unto Me 

Stories & Prayers

BEATRICE'S STORY:The Burden of Systemic Oppression

Intercessory Prayer 

Reprise the refrain of the theme song "Come Unto Me." 

JATO'S STORY:The Burden of Religious Persecution

Intercessory Prayer 

Reprise the refrain of the theme song "Come Unto Me." 

BLESSING'S STORY:The Burdens of Poverty and Despair

Intercessory Prayer 

Reprise the refrain of the theme song "Come Unto Me." 

Call to Action

Reader 2: Where do we find our hope in a burdened world?

All: In Christ, who bears all of our burdens.

Reader 2: How do we respond to overwhelming situations?

All: We remain resilient, believing that the storm will pass.

Reader 2: Where do we place our trust in uncertain times?

All: In God, the Giver of life and Sustainer of all.

Reader 2: What should we do when those around us are weary and heavy laden?

All: Bear one another's burdens, as Christ bears ours.

Reader 2: As we go forth, what is our call to action?

All: To live out our informed prayers through prayerful action.

Reader 2: May we go forth with the strength of Christ.

All: We go with faith, hope, and love, to be light in the world.

Offertory

Offertory Song His Eye Is on the Sparrow 

Closing Words