

Sowing the future together: prayers and reflections

God of mercy and compassion,
weave your dream for the world
into the fabric of our lives.
Remove the scales from our eyes
and lift the indifference from our hearts,
so that we may see your vision –
a new reign of justice and compassion
that will transform the earth.

Transform our lives,
so that we may accomplish your purpose.

Anoint us with your Spirit
that we might bring good news to the oppressed,
bind up the brokenhearted,
and proclaim release to the captive.

Give us a new urgency
and a new commitment
to feed the hungry,
clothe the naked,
shelter the homeless,
and visit those who live in isolation.
Help us to reach out to those
whom no one else will touch,
to accept the unacceptable,
and to embrace the enemy.

Surround us with your love,
fill us with your grace,
and strengthen us for your service.

Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus –
to deny ourselves,
to take up our crosses,
and to follow.
Make us your disciples.

Amen

www.followingjesus.org/resources

**Loving Lord,
we give you thanks for the work and witness
of Mothers' Union Worldwide.**

We thank you for lives which have blossomed
through the outreach of our members.

We praise you for those who have moved from poverty to financial stability,
for relationships that have developed into mutual respect;
for families who have been helped in times of adversity
and all who have grown in faith.

We thank you for those who have faithfully served you
in ways unseen by the many;
who have given selflessly of their time and gifts
to love their neighbour as themselves.

Help us to sow a future together
which will enable our work to flourish;
through far-reaching vision
and commitment to your will.

As we look back with gratitude and praise for what has been achieved
so we look forward with faith and hope for all that is to come.

**We place our trust in our loving God
who calls us to follow him
then walks alongside us all the way.
Amen**

Spirit of Life,
hover over me, breathe life into me, empower me,
bring to birth the seeds of love, and peace, and compassion
growing in me.

Make me fertile with the seeds of the fruits of the Spirit:
nourish them, nurture them, ripen them into fruitfulness.
Pour out your Spirit on the gifts, your gifts, you have
given me that I may prophesy and dream dreams and see
visions as you promised.

Breathe life into me in abundance,
and let it flow from me abundantly.

Spirit of Life,
flow through me powerfully, vitally,
that my presence to others may always be life-giving.
Continue to be born in me, to bring me to birth
Every day, increasing my capacity for love,
for peace, for compassion, for abundance,
for gratitude, for living life
and bringing life to others.

Barbara Cameron (Embracing God's World: Joyce Huggett;2007)

All compassionate and merciful God,
source of life and light,
who knows our weakness and wretchedness
yet still loves us:
Give us wisdom to recognise the connectedness
we share as your people.
Give us the courage and power to speak out
and fight against unfairness and injustice.
Give us generosity to share of our resources and ourselves.
Send your grace upon our partnerships in your holy name,
that together we might learn and do more
than we can ever do alone.

Amen

Nancee Martin-Coffey: (Lifting Women's Voices; 2009)

Lord, we would grow with you
New shoots reaching out
Hands stretched upward
Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you
Lord, we would grow with you
In sunshine and rain
In darkness and light
In cold days and summer days
From Springtime to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you
Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit
That is pleasing to you
Fed by your living water
Giving sustenance to others
Lord, we would grow with you
John Birch

What a joyful celebration
when we come together
as a community of communities,
a network of worshippers with common purpose,
a united walk towards the promised land.
Jesus goes ahead of us
as the shepherd leads the sheep
and we hear the song of the redeemed
as prisoners are released, the blind given sight,
the exploited and oppressed are given new hope
and the rainbow sign arcs above the pilgrims
who walk together to the city of peace.
John Johansen-Berg (Seeing Christ in Others; 2002)