



## A Simple service of Daily Prayer for International Women's Day 2023

### Gathering to worship God

*Welcome and introduction*

*Greeting*

Let us worship God: Creator, Word and Holy Spirit  
*All* **Amen**

God is with you  
*All* **And also with you.**

This is the day that God has made  
*All* **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

### Opening Prayer

Wondrous God, we praise You for the splendor of the world!  
We thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth  
are the varied threads of human diversity.  
Created in Your image, we are of many colors and cultures,  
ages and classes, gender and sexual identities.  
Different and alike, we are Your beloved people.  
Free us, we pray, from fears of difference that divide and wound us.  
Move us to dismantle our attitudes and systems of prejudice.  
Renew our commitment to make this a community of faith for all people –  
that all who worship and minister in our community  
may know the grace and challenge of faith.  
In our life together, grant us minds and hearts eager to learn,  
reluctant to judge, and responsive to the leading of your loving Spirit.  
We ask this in Christ's name, Amen

*Poem*

*what is the greatest lesson a woman should learn*

that since day one  
she's already had everything she needs within herself  
it's the world that convinced her she did not

- rupi kaur

*Readings*

## Psalm

**All**    **Glory to God, Creator, Word, Spirit**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now,**  
**And shall be forever. Amen**

## Reading

*Affirmation of faith*

With the whole church  
**All**    **We affirm that we are made in God's image,**  
**Befriended by Christ,**  
**Empowered by the Spirit**

With people everywhere  
**All**    **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity**  
**Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation  
**All**    **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;**  
**The unfolding purposes of God, forever at work**  
**In ourselves and the world**

*Iona Abbey Worship Book*

*Poem*

## Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

'You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.'

*The prayers may include this response*

God, in your love

**All** hear our prayer.

*The prayers end with*

Gracious God,

**All** accept these prayers  
**In the name of our brother, Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

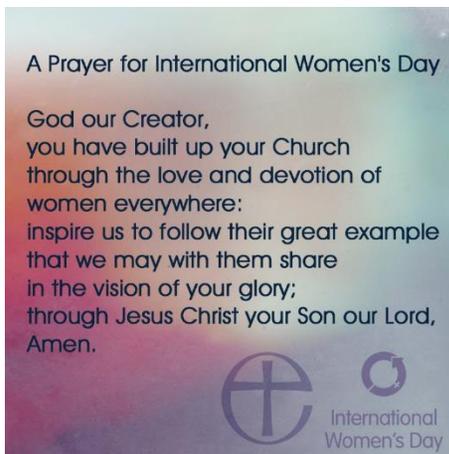
God of Grace,

Thank you for the opportunity this day gives us to celebrate the contribution of women. 2 Spirit, nonbinary persons and trans-women and to advocate for progress on gender equality.

We celebrate that you are a God who longs for life in all its fulness for all people in the rich diversity of their gender identity. We lament that too often, the potential of people across the world has been restricted by individual prejudice and structural barriers.

We thank you for the example of women within our Scriptures and throughout Christian history who have preached and lived the gospel in the face of discrimination. We pray that you may give us all a spirit of courage to stand up for justice, even when it becomes uncomfortable.

### **Collect (Prayer for the day)**



*Church of England*

### **A version of The Disciple's Prayer**

**All** Our Mother  
Who is in heaven and within us,  
We call upon your name;  
your wisdom come;  
your will be done;  
In all the spaces in which you dwell.

**Give us each day  
Sustenance and perseverance.  
Remind us of our limits as  
We give grace to the limits of others  
Separate us from the temptation of empire,  
And deliver us into community.  
For you are the dwelling place within us,  
the empowerment around us  
and the celebration among us,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Going out to serve God**

Let us go from our prayer to proclaim the good news:

God takes on flesh in the strange and surprising.  
Love liberates from the margins.  
Together, we have what we need to resist evil and oppression.

With a renewed commitment to solidarity with God and all people, may the Spirit lead us from this place with peace.

Let us go in peace to love and serve our loving God.

**All** **In the name of Christ. Amen.**