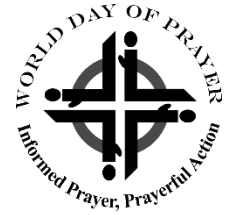


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Charity Number SC 020446

Friday, March 7th, 2025



"I Made You Wonderful"

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Cook Islands

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

thank you for creating us! Thank you for giving us life! Thank you for our sisters and brothers in the Cook Islands. Thank you for all the children of the world. We love you, God!

All: **Amen.**

OPENING SONG

Children in the Cook Islands love to sing! One of their favourite songs is "My God Loves Me."

Aroa mai te Atua
Aroa mai te Atua iaku
Ki te au mea
Taku e kite nei
Te Anuanua, kua iti mai
Ki roto iaku
Aroa mai te Atua iaku.

My God loves me
and all the wonders I see.
A rainbow shines through my window,
my God loves me.

WELCOME

"Kia orana" everyone!

It's wonderful to see all of you today. We have a special message brought to us by a group of women in the Cook Islands.

Does anyone know where the Cook Islands are?

...

The Cook Islands are a group of 15 islands in the south Pacific Ocean. They are close to New Zealand and Australia.

Most people in the Cook Islands speak a language called "Maori." Here's a phrase in the Maori language:

"Kia orana!"

Can we all say that together?

Kia orana

Great! "Kia orana" is a phrase in Maori that Cook Islanders use to greet each other. "Kia orana" means more than just hello. It means: "May you live a long and wonderful life!"

Let's say that one more time, but this time, look at someone in the eyes and say "Kia orana."

Kia orana

SEA CREATURES – ACTIVITY

Children in the Cook Islands LOVE to go swimming. There are beaches all around their islands, where they can swim in the salty ocean water. Some children enjoy snorkelling, where they can see many beautiful Sea Creatures.

We are going to colour or draw lots of different Sea Creatures and paste them on this big blue paper.

You can think of:

- Clown triggerfish that are blue, yellow, green and white.
- Crabs that are white, black and brown.
- The octopus who has 8 tentacles, filled with buttons.
- Turtles that are brown and green.
- Sea grass that is green, and it is food for all the Sea Creatures.

You can take them from the colouring sheet or draw them yourselves.

...

Gather around our big blue paper. What have you made? How have you made it?

...

Notice the difference between all the different fishes, we have all done it a bit different.

We are all unique, and wonderfully made by God.

Song

We are now going to sing the theme song for the World Day of Prayer 2025 from the Cook Islands.

I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are your works,
that my soul knows very well.
And I'll praise you all my days!

Bible Message

As I mentioned, the Cook Islands have brought us a special message today. Their message comes from the book of Psalms in the Bible. We read Psalm 139.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

-Psalm 139:14

Thinking about the story

The psalmist is speaking to God, saying "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." What do you think it means that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God?

...

Those are great ideas! God made all the delicate, inner parts of our bodies. God knit each of us together within our mother's womb. We are all made wonderfully complex. God painstakingly designed us with much loving care. God created us with reverence and awe. Each of our blueprints are similar to other human beings but they're not exactly the same. I am unique – and so are you.

I wonder what you know about what our body can do? What are some of the things that God made our bodies to do?

...

Our eyes help us to see. Our noses allow us to smell. Our tongue and mouth let us eat and taste. Our ears enable us to hear. Our skin allows us to feel textures. Our cardiovascular system gives us energy to move. Our muscular system gives us the ability to lift and hold things. Our digestive system processes food into energy and discards waste. Our immune system keeps us healthy. Our brain allows us to think, process and create.

Song

I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are your works,
that my soul knows very well.
And I'll praise you all my days!

FLOWER FESTIVAL ACTIVITY

Now it's time to use these wonderful bodies that God made to do an activity!

In November every year, the flowers are in full bloom in the Cook Islands. So, the Cook Islanders celebrate and give thanks for these beautiful flowers every year by holding a Flower Festival. This festival is a riot of colour with decorated floats, singing, dancing and dazzling flower arrangements.

There is a lot of excitement during the Flower Festival, and there are activities every day for a whole week.

We are going to do one of those activities today!

...

Did you know that God made your body to do those things? What parts of your body helped you do this activity?

...

Song

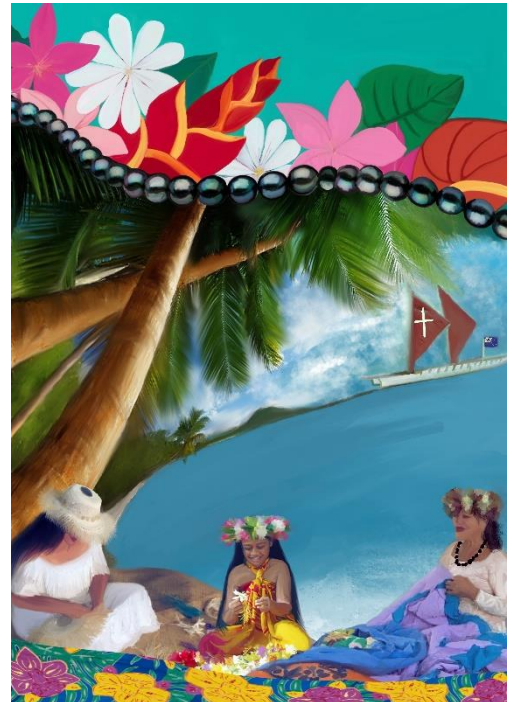
I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvellous are your works,
that my soul knows very well.
And I'll praise you all my days!

SNACK

One of the traditional dishes in the Cook Islands is called 'Ika Mata,' which means 'raw fish' in English. Cook Islanders eat a lot of fish because we all live close to the ocean. Many children enjoy helping to prepare this snack, but sometimes adults prepare it and the children just eat it.

COCONUT TREE - ACTIVITY

The coconut tree is one of the most important trees for the Cook Islands people. They call it the "Tree of Life" because it has sustained their people



for many generations. Every part of the coconut tree has uses and benefits for food, medicine, and building homes.

- Leaves – use for roofing on their houses, and for brooms, mats, baskets, hats, fans
- Coconuts juice – use to drink coconut water, filled with vitamins and minerals
- Coconut fibre – used for rope making, mattress stuffing, pot and pan brushes
- Coconut shell – used to make jewellery, musical instruments, kitchen utensils
- Coconut flesh – grated and used in cooking and baking
- Coconut oil – used for cooking, baking, salad dressing, moisturizers, hair oil
- Trunk – used for poles for houses, containers, canoes, firewood
- Roots – used for medicine, fish traps, and decoration

CLOSING QUESTIONS

What did you learn about the Cook Islands today? ...

What did you learn about God today? ...

Song

I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvellous are your works,
that my soul knows very well.
And I'll praise you all my days!

CLOSING PRAYER

Wonderful God, thank you for creating us. Thank you for making the world so special. Thank you for making us so special. Help us to treat ourselves with love. And help us be kind to other people. Amen.

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