

World Day of Prayer

March 7th, 2025

“I Made You Wonderful”

Psalm 139 : 14



Worship Service

Prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands

World Day of Prayer (Scottish Committee)

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GREETINGS FROM THE SCOTTISH CONVENOR

“I Made You Wonderful”

Psalm 139:14

It is good to be able to report another successful year, with the World Day of Prayer on March 1st 2024 being received so well around Scotland. For this we give thanks to all those who so diligently presented the service in the local churches, halls and other places. We now look forward to the 2025 Service written by the Christian Women of The Cook Islands with the theme of, “I Made you Wonderful.”

We were able to continue with the “10 Days of Prayer” initiative as a run up to the World Day of Prayer. This was presented on the WDP Facebook page as well as on the WDP website. The WDP Service this year was particularly moving and challenging because of the dire situation in the Middle East and the writing of the Service by the women of Palestine.

Our continued appreciation is given to all those in support of the Scottish Committee, the committee members themselves who work the whole year round, organisers, distributors, printers and supporters, and importantly the Scottish Bible Society for their provision of resources which enable us to carry out the practical functions of the committee. We would always encourage women of all ages to help with and support the work of the WDP.

Mary Welsh (*Scottish Committee Convener*)

A letter from WDP International Committee Executive Director

Dear WDP Sisters,

I am thrilled to share that the materials written by WDP Cook Islands for our 2025 program are ready! Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years deepening into the theme: "I Made You Wonderful," based on Psalm 139:1-18. This program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Our first Guiding Principle in the World Day of Prayer articulates that our starting point is Christian women. This has been an essential conviction of our movement over the last century. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

The Worship Service invites us to notice aspects of our divinely created bodies that we often take for granted. The scripture reading from Psalms 139:1-18 is woven together with stories of three women from the Cook Islands. We come to understand that God knows us, is always with us, and made us unique and special. The service leads us to offer prayers of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator, followed by prayers of confession and longing. Finally, the prayers of intercession guide us to ask God for wisdom, courage and healing, that our world would come to treat all people as "fearfully and wonderfully made."

The Bible Study prompts dialogue around Psalm 139, particularly focusing on the relationship between God and each one of us. The study looks at 3 sections of Psalm 139, each with a different focus: verses 1-6 (God knows us), verses 7-12 (God is with us), and 13-18 (God made us wonderful).

The Children's Program includes a song that is popular among children in the Cook Islands, as well as several activities for colouring and creating neck garlands and flower head crowns. Children are encouraged to learn how their bodies were made wonderful by God.

The Country Background gives an abundance of information about the history of the Cook Islands, with a particular emphasis on the achievements of women. Taking on the responsibility of being a writer country is always a rigorous journey, and we are grateful to our Cook Islands sisters for their hard work and patience. Included in these preliminary materials are the Worship Service, Bible Study, Country Background, Children's Program, Artwork and Artist Statement. In coming weeks and months, we will also provide music sheets and photographs to accompany the program. If your WDP Committee would like information about projects and initiatives recommended by women leaders in Cook Islands, please contact us.

May God continue to bless the world through our commitment to praying and acting together as a global sisterhood of ecumenical Christian women.

Katie Reimer

Executive Director, WDPIC

Order of Worship

INTENTION

This programme invites us to recognize that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. God knows us intimately, and we are special to God in our uniqueness. When we open the doors of our hearts to this truth, everything in our life changes. We glow from within, and we begin treating others as beloved children of God. Through this programme, we hope people will be spiritually uplifted as they come to trust the great love of God.

Prelude

Have the sound of ocean waves playing as participants arrive

Distribute a flower to each person who enters. Invite them to put the flower behind their ear or wear it as a lapel.

WELCOME CHANT

Leaders 1, 2 and 3

Turoū, turoū!
Oro mai, oro mai!
E te ao nei!
Iēkoko!

Welcome, welcome!
Come all, come all!
The whole world!
Iēkoko!

WELCOME AND CENTERING

Leader 1

Kia orana!

Today's worship service comes to us from a group of ecumenical Christian women from the Cook Islands in the Pacific. Kia orana is a phrase in the Maori language that the Cook Islanders use to greet each other. Kia orana means more than just hello. It means: May you live long and may you live well. May you shine like the sun. May you dance with the waves.

Our sisters in the Cook Islands have invited the whole world to greet each other today with this Maori phrase. You are welcome to repeat after me:

Kia orana!

Kia orana!

May you live long!

May you live long!

May you live well!

May you live well!

May you shine like the sun!

May you shine like the sun!

May you dance with the waves!

May you dance with the waves!

Leader 2

Kia orana!

Kia orana!

Take a moment and notice your own breathing.

(pause)

Notice how your breath comes in and out, like the waves of the sea.

(long pause)

Every one of us gathered here today is breathing! Isn't that astonishing? All of us share in that gift of life. As surely as the waves of the ocean rise and fall, our breath flows in and out.

Let's go ahead now and make a BIG wave! Take a deep breath. Engage and feel this sacred and shared gift of life!

(pause)

Leader 3

Kia orana!

Kia orana!

Let's take another moment to connect. For this one, you'll need your imagination! Imagine the blood flowing through your veins and your arteries. Flowing like rivers. (Flowing like a river)

(pause)

Just as a river brings nutrients to the shores and the fields of the earth, your blood is bringing nutrients to every organ in your body.

(long pause)

Isn't it amazing that God created our bodies to work this way? To bring health and life to every organ within? To keep us strong, alive and vibrant, each and every day?

Leader 1

Kia orana!

Kia orana!

Now, you are invited to find a part of your body that doesn't hurt too much, and try feeling the sensation of your skin dancing through time and space. You might want to wiggle your fingers! Or wiggle your toes! Or perhaps you want to stretch your neck muscles. Maybe you want to touch the skin on your arm, or your face. Or maybe you want to simply sit still and notice how the chair/pew is supporting you.

As you engage your body, remember being a child, when you took delight at simply moving through the world.

(long pause)

Leader 2

God made us wonderful from the very beginning, weaving us together in our mother's womb.

Leader 3

And the Spirit continues to flow through every moment of every day, helping us to feel the astonishing gift of life.

Leader 1

Every single one of us is unique, and deeply loved by God. Look around! Look at all who are gathered here today - both in this space, and all around the world. Take a moment to look around and appreciate the gift of each other!

(long pause as people look around at each other)

SONG OF PRAISE (THEME SONG)

The image shows a musical score for a three-part song. It consists of three staves of music in a 3/4 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "I am fear - ful - ly made, and_ won - der - ful - ly made_____ Mar - vel". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "ous_____ are your works, _ that my soul knows ver - y well, _____ and I'll". The third staff concludes the piece with lyrics: "praise you_____ all my days." and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1. 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!

OPENING PRAYER

Leader 2

Let us pray to our Creator.

God who made us wonderful, thank you for this fellowship of sisters and brothers around the world. As we come together, help us open our hearts to you, and to each other. Quieten our minds from all the worries that preoccupy us. Reconnect us to you, and to each other, so that we all may glow brightly, and radiate your love to the world. **Amen.**

Let us sing our praise to God, through the Psalm 139

O God you Search Me 9.9.11.11

1. O God you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
2. You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.
3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

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SCRIPTURE, STORY & SONG

Reader 1

Psalms 139:1-6 (NRSV)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Let us listen now to our first story, the story of Mii – God Knows Us.

Woman 1

Story 1: God Knows Us

Kia orana.

My name is Mii. I am 15 years old.

February 2022 was a scary month for me. It was the month that my family first had contact with someone who was Covid-19 positive.

When I first heard about it, I freaked out. My dad felt bad because he was the one who brought it into our home. I was really upset. I thought we were going to die. I knew people who had died from COVID. I thought that I would die and not see my nephew when he was born.

I started to think about things that I haven't experienced yet. I started to pray. I pleaded with God to look after my family. I didn't know what would happen next. I turned to the Lord and asked for guidance. I was terrified and scared, but I knew that prayer would help me to feel calm. And it worked. I stopped crying and the pressure lifted from my heart.

And then I realized that God knows every detail of my life. God knows my distress and fear. God knows. And knowing that God knows and cares about me helps me to feel calm when I am afraid.

God knows me. And God knows you. And God knows everything we are going through.

Let us Sing

1. O God you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

4. Although your spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

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Reader 2

Psalms 139:7-12 (NRSV)

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me",
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Let us listen now to our second story, the story of Vainiu – God is With Us.

Woman 2

Story 2: God is With Us

Kia orana. My name is Vainiu.

I was born in 1958 on the island of Aitutaki. My parents and grandparents believed strongly in the value of culture for a good upbringing. I attended Araura Primary School. For the first 3 years of my education, Cook Islands Maori was the language of instruction. However, as I moved on in school, it became clear that a lot of importance was placed on the English language. Sadly, the schools that I attended encouraged us to speak English in our classes and in the playground. We were told by our teachers not to speak our mother tongue. We were told to immerse ourselves in the English language. Unfortunately, many at the time believed that English was the universal language, the language of trade, and therefore the language of superiority. The influence by the West in those days was powerful. I struggled with this, as I was fluent in Maori and spoke little English.

My grandmother, Mama Mereana, encouraged her grandchildren to speak Maori. I looked up to Mama Mereana. She had a huge impact on my childhood. She was my mentor and role model in the way of life. It was through her that I learned valuable and lifelong skills of how to plant and prepare food, and to speak the Reo Aitutakian dialect properly. I strongly believe that our elders play a significant role in shaping who we are and where we come from.

The English language has gained momentum over the years and the value of our Maori language has diminished. Formal education during the early years of my life did not have a positive impact on me because what I learned at home from my parents, grandparents and family contradicted what I was taught by my teachers in a Western classroom. The books and lessons that we read and learned from were all in English. I used to think to myself, how are these English books and lessons going to help me plant vegetables, make the umu (ground oven), cook food, wash the clothes and feed the chickens and pigs. A strong feeling of loss led me to withdraw from engaging in the classroom.

One time in school, I remember being caught speaking our indigenous language. My teacher punished me by making me wear a cardboard sign that said, "I am a Maori speaker." She put me on detention and, on a hot day, made me pull out prickly weeds called "pikikaa" in the school playground. I was humiliated and shamed in front of my peers. I never forgot that day. As a result of that experience, I was determined to speak English and say little about my mother tongue. This is just one example of how my language and culture was devalued.

God gave us unique and special languages throughout the world, and we should honour and respect those languages. I believe that the Maori language needs to be paramount in our teaching and learning environment. Teachers and students can encourage Maori to be spoken, taught and written in all subjects. And parents can give our Maori language a chance to survive by speaking it at home.

During those formative years in my childhood, even though I was devalued and shamed by the school system, I know that God was still with me. Even when we are cast out and treated with disrespect, God is still with us. God goes with us to the darkness at the bottom of the ocean, where there is no light. And God helps lead us out of that darkness into a wonderful light.

Kia orana e kia manuia. Thank you for listening to my story. God bless you.

Continue singing

1. O God you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

5. For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

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Reader 3

Psalms 139:13-18 (NRSV)

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Let us listen now to the story of Dr. Dawn – God Made us Wonderful.

Woman 3

Story 3: God Made us Wonderful

Kia orana. My name is Dr. Dawn.

Becoming a doctor was one of the hardest things I have ever done. But it is worth it when a mother shares that her child is now healthy and thriving after I did my part in helping to save that child's life. It truly warms my heart. One time, a girl who had not seen me for over 10 years came up and hugged me, saying I am still her "baby doctor." I enjoy working with children so much. They give me strength to go on serving at a time when the Cook Islands face the threat of our workforce leaving the country.

I graduated as a doctor in 2003 after 7 years of studying in Fiji. At that time, there was a focus on building up paediatrics in the Cook Islands. I became the first female Cook Islands doctor at the Paediatric Department of the Cook Islands, after my predecessor Dr Henry Daiwo. I would also like to mention Dr. Munro who looked after our paediatric ward previously.

One of my first priorities as a baby doctor was to make sure all babies got a check-up by our team within 24 hours. I also helped us to become more equipped and skilled to handle very sick and premature newborns. We established guidelines and protocols to help direct our work. We improved the connection between the Cook Islands and our great supporters from Auckland and Starship Hospital in New Zealand. Having more specialised care has been a major factor in improving the health of our children. We pride ourselves on being the only Pacific island country to have no maternal deaths since 1995.

Other areas of our healthcare system in the Cook Islands have also improved over the decades. Specialised care has greatly improved since the 1990s as the focus moved from infectious diseases to curative medicine. Our screening programmes for cervical and breast cancers have greatly improved. However, there is still work to be done. We must focus on offering better primary health care and preventing noncommunicable diseases and pandemics. We need to focus on mental health. We need to strengthen support systems for our elderly. Our teenage pregnancies still need to be addressed. Although accessibility to contraception is relatively easy, the uptake needs more encouragement. Our communities must act and take accountability for their own health. Health and wellness are a job for everyone. We can only improve if we work together.

God created me wonderful by blessing me with the motivation and opportunity to study medicine. And I responded to God's blessing by serving the people of the Cook Islands as a doctor. As I have worked in healthcare over the years, I realize more and more that God has made all of us wonderful. Our bodies, minds and spirits were knit together by our loving Creator. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. We all are fearfully and wonderfully made.

SONG OF PRAISE

I am fear - ful - ly made, and_ won - der - ful - ly made_____ Mar - vel
 ous_____ are your works,___ that my soul knows ver - y well,_____ and I'll
 praise you_____ all my days.

Ruru Maeve, Cook Islands

1. 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!
2. You are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
 Marvellous are God's works, that my soul knows very well.
 And I'll praise God all my days!
3. We are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
 Marvellous are God's works, that we now know very well.
 And we'll praise God all our days!

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Leader 1

As we come to our time of prayer, let us prepare our hearts to come before God. When we pray, we deepen our relationship to God. And when we deepen our relationship to God, we become more connected to all of God's creation. Let us open our hearts and spirits to God.

All Sing

Ruru Maeva, Cook Islands

Maori: A - tu - a ki - te ia ma - tou, ki ro - to ia ma - tou,
English: _____ God who knows us, God who is with us,

5
tei an - ga ia ma - tou, pu - re ma - tou kia - koe.
God who made us, to you we pray.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*
(Ruru Maeva)

Leader 1

Magnificent God, we stand in awe of you. We give you glory because of who you are – the Creator of the entire world. You created the beautiful Cook Islands - the fertile lands, the mountains, and the oceans. And you created beauty in every part of the world. You created roosters on the land, and whales in the sea. And you formed us - human beings - fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. All of creation reveals Your majestic glory.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*

Leader 2

Faithful God, thank you for taking care of us in every moment of our lives. You have been with us in our fear and our anxiety; our depression and our frustration. You have helped us bear financial limitations and uncertainties about the future. You have been present with us through cyclones and tsunamis, wildfires and earthquakes. You held us through the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the physical and mental well-being of so many.

God, thank you for all the women leading our powerful prayer movement. We praise you for the mamas who have passed the World Day of Prayer baton from the past into the present.

God of Abundance, we are truly grateful for you. And we cannot help but praise You for your faithfulness.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*

Leader 3

God of Mercy, we come before you with humble hearts seeking Your forgiveness of our many sins – in word, in deed, and in thoughts. We have spoken unkind words to those around us, neglecting to treat them as wonderfully made by you. We have polluted the oceans and destroyed the environment, neglecting to care for your beautiful creation. Our pride and lack of courage have caused harm to ourselves and others. All of this has caused us to miss out on your blessings and love.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*

Leader 1

Gracious God, please hear the longings of our hearts. Re-create your character and image within us. Open our spiritual eyes and minds to accept our divine beauty. And inspire us to share this beauty with others. God, help us to honour the divine beauty in everyone, appreciating each person that you

have created. Wise Teacher, Patient God, help us to recognize that you are always present, no matter what circumstances we face. Loving Spirit, we need your embrace, so that we might shine and radiate your love to the whole world.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*

Leader 2

God of Wisdom, we pray for the leaders in our world. Guide their hearts and minds to have integrity as they make decisions. Inspire them, and bless them with vision to move our world towards unity and peace.

We pray for women and girls who are vulnerable in our societies. Create the conditions so that elderly women can live with respect and dignity. Give our young women the education, aspiration and vision to develop into a promising future. Provide strength, courage and patience to all women experiencing domestic violence.

God of Healing, restore us to wellness. Heal us from physical diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Relieve us from mental illness and heal our emotional wounds. Protect us from the selfishness and greed that threaten our spiritual well-being.

God, help our World Day of Prayer movement unite our communities in prayer. Help us make your love visible. Strengthen us to continue loving and supporting all who are in need. Lead us to treat others as wonderfully made by you, so that all people would feel that they are important, cared for, and treasured.

1. *God who knows us,
God who is with us,
God who made us,
to you we pray.*

Leader 3

Now let us continue by saying the Lord's Prayer either in Maori, or your own language. Or your own Lord's Prayer

E nā kō nei kōtou kia pure:

‘E tō mātou Metua i te ao ra, kia
‘akatapu’ia tō’ou ingoa,
kia tae mai tō’ou bāsileia,
kia ‘ākono’ia tō’ou anoano mei tei te
ao na pērā katoa i te ‘enua nei.

‘Ō mai i te kai e tau i a mātou i
tēianeī rā.

E ‘akakore mai i tā mātou au ‘ara,
mei a mātou katoa i ‘akakore i tā tei
‘ara ki a mātou nei.

Auraka e arataki i a mātou ki roto i te
tīmata’anga, e ‘akaora rā i a mātou i
te Kino.

[Nō’ou ‘oki te bāsileia, ē te mana, ē te
kakā, e tuātau ‘ua atu. Āmene.]’

Let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your
name,

may your kingdom come,

may your self be taught as it is in the
world as it is in this world.

Eat the food we have now.

We are not aware of our ways, as we all
are not aware of what has been done
to us.

Do not lead us into the beginning, but
save us from Evil.

[kingdom is yours, the power, the glory,
for ever. Amen.]’

OFFERTORY

Leader 1

Today we have been blessed by the witness of Christian women from the Cook Islands. The 3 stories they shared have connected us to their lives. These women from the Cook Islands have given generously of their time and talents to make this World Day of Prayer not only possible, but beautiful.

We come now to a time of offering. The World Day of Prayer is a movement led by Christian women that unites the world in prayer. As we pray with our sisters from the Cook Islands, we are moved to prayerful action. Giving our financial resources is one way we can act so that all women and girls can live with dignity and respect.

The offerings given are used to support charities directly on the Cook Islands and charities in Scotland that work in the Cook Islands.

While we are giving our offering, let us enjoy this *imeni tuki* – or sacred hymn – by our siblings in the Cook Islands. May we open our hearts and give generously.

“Kia aruru te enua katoa” (Let the lands rejoice in thunderous acclamation)

Available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/eoGiRZUP1MY?si=TP8VPWkGk1ss8a6N>

Let us pray.

God, we dedicate this offering to you. Thank you for all the gifts you have given to us. Bless the gifts we offer now to you, so that they may bless the world. Amen.

A MUTUAL BLESSING

Leader 2

As a second part of our offering, and in response to all that has been shared today, let us take a moment to greet a few people around us.

You can start by saying, “Kia orana!” And then you can say something that you love about that person. After you say what you love about the person, you can end by saying, “God made you wonderful!”

If you know the person well, you might say, “Kia orana! I love how you treat everyone with kindness and respect! God made you wonderful!”

Or, “Kia orana! You are the best cook I know! God made you wonderful!”

Or, “Kia orana! I love how dedicated you are to your kids. God made you wonderful!”

If you don’t know them very well, you might say, “Kia orana! I love your smile! God made you wonderful!”

Or, “Kia orana! I love your shirt! God made you wonderful!”

So, let’s offer a mutual blessing to each other now.

Lets Now Sing.

1. 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!
2. You are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvellous are God's works, that my soul knows very well.
And I'll praise God all my days!
3. We are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.
Marvellous are God's works, that we now know very well.
And we'll praise God all our days!

COMMITMENT TO 'PRAYERFUL ACTION'

Leader 1

So what now? What happens when we realize that God is with us and for us? What changes when we recognize that we are fearfully and wonderfully made?

Leader 2

What we believe often becomes our reality. When we think differently, we live differently. Changing the way we think changes the way we act.

Leader 3

Each one of us is God's masterpiece. How will that realization cause us to live differently?

Woman 1

Like Mii, when we realize that God knows us, we can find peace amidst our fears.

Woman 2

Like Vainiu, when we trust that God is always with us, we can find strength even in the midst of struggles.

Woman 3

And like Dr. Dawn, when we understand that we are unique and special, made wonderful by God, we can use our gifts and talents to serve and bless the world.

Leader 1

Our motto in the World Day of Prayer is “Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action.” So let us take one last moment together. As we listen again to the ocean waves, let us ask how God is calling us into a new way of being in the world - into “prayerful action.”

HYMN: The Day Thou Gavest. (98 98)

1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
2. We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.
3. As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.
4. The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.
5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

Commissioning Prayer (Optional)

Pass a large lit candle from the table to a representative of next years host church and say the following prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the World Day of Prayer which is taking place throughout the world today, and has been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands.

Many Christians gather together to praise you and we thank the Priest / Minister / Pastor and people of For hosting this world-wide service of prayer in Scotland. With joy we pass this candle to who represents who will host next years service, prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. Amen

BLESSING

Leader 1

Go now, and live this good news:

Leader 2

God is our Creator. God made us wonderful. God knows us, and God is with us.

Leader 3

Treat yourself as a precious and beloved child of God. And treat others as precious and beloved children of God.

Amen!



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World Day of Prayer Movement

In 1910 more than 400 women met for the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh) bringing their experience and wisdom developed through years of ecumenical partnership in many countries. WDP was born. Today World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing together millions from over 100 countries to pray, worship and learn each year.

Through World Day of Prayer, people are encouraged:

- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society
- to affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world

Scottish Committee Mission Statement

As representatives of the churches in Scotland, and members of a world-wide movement of Christian women, we work to promote prayerful living and worship for men, women and children, and to raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service.

We encourage ecumenical planning for World Day of Prayer services, facilitating them by preparing material supportive of the annual international theme and country. We generate resources in support of Christian literature distribution and projects giving practical help to people in the writing country.

More information can be found on our website www.wdpScotland.org.uk and on our facebook page 'World Day of Prayer Scotland'.

Friday 6th March 2026

2026 Nigeria – “I Will Give You Rest: Come”

Donations made in 2024

Scottish Bible Society	£ 12,000
Palestine Schools:-	
Al Shurooq & Jeel Al Amal	£ 1,000
Charities of Palestine	£ 24,000
International and European work of WDP	£ 7,000

For a full set of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023, please contact the Treasurer, **Suzanne Foster**, or view on WDP (www.wdpScotland.org.uk) or OSCR (www.oscr.org.uk).

Plans for this year's funds

The principal aims of the WDP Scottish Committee are to promote the annual WDP service by producing and distributing materials; and to support societies giving physical or spiritual help to people in the writing country. By keeping our costs as low as possible, we can maximise the amount given.

If you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your donation. You can get a declaration form from your service organiser or from the website.

Please give generously!

Offerings must be paid into a bank, with the bank giro slip provided, by bank transfer, to these Bank Details: Bank Name Royal Bank of Scotland: Sort Code: 83-20-06: Account Number: 18873111: or by cheque (**payable to WDP Scottish Committee**) and sent to the WDP Treasurer, **Suzanne Foster**, by the end of April 2025 if at all possible.

There may be circumstances when the uplifting of an offering is not appropriate (some hospitals, residential homes or schools), but donations to cover the cost of materials are always welcome and can be sent at any time. Should a service be cancelled, a retiring collection uplifted in a church, or donations, would be most acceptable.

**The Committee would like to thank the many volunteers
up and down the country who help to organise and take part in services.
Your contributions cannot be measured. Thank you!**

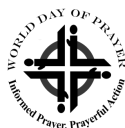
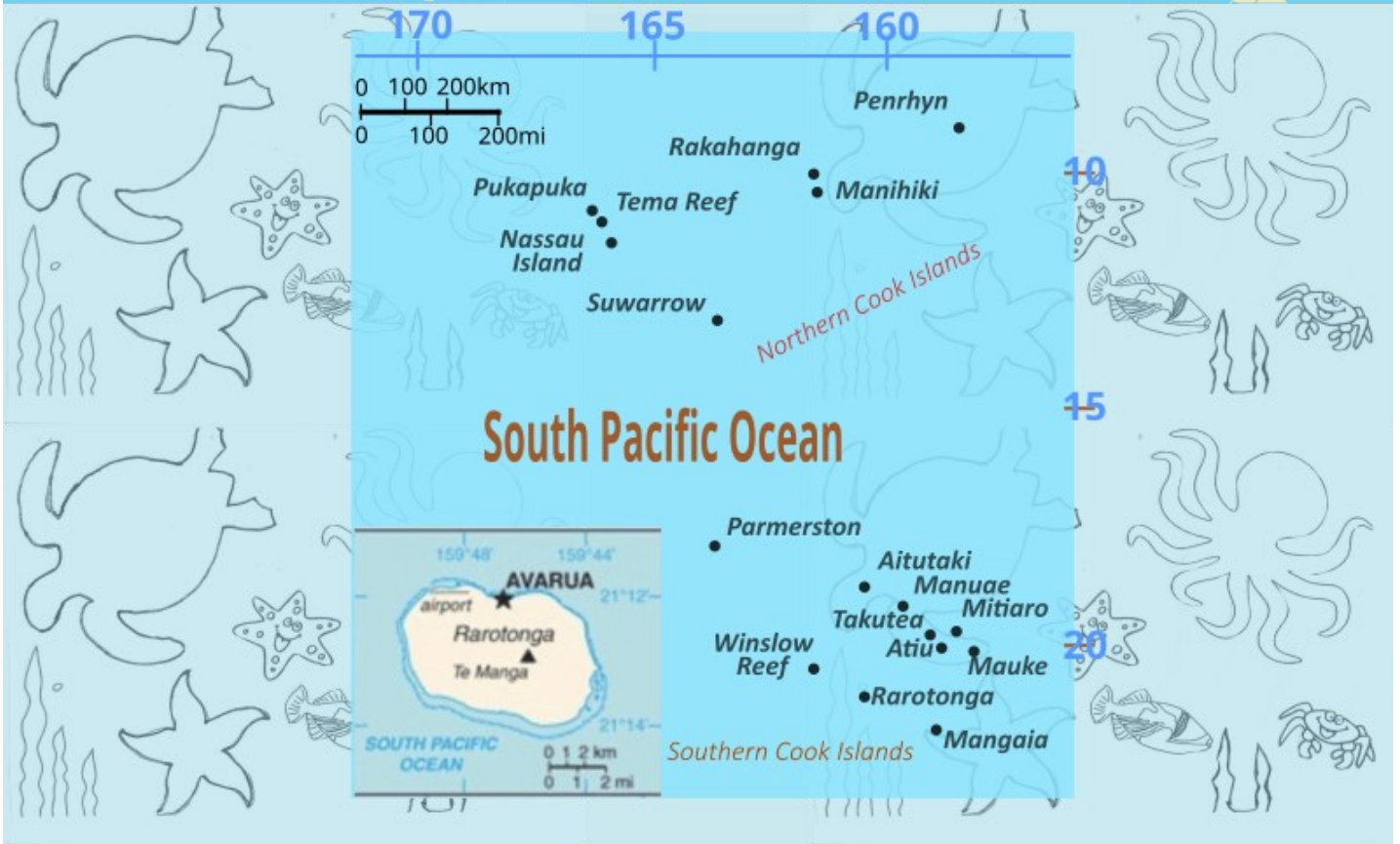
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Nina Cryne	Union of Catholic Mothers
Irene Houston	Salvation Army
Kathryn Howe	Salvation Army Rep for Young Women
Mary Kidd	Methodist Church
Isabel Martin	United Free Church
Kate Arnot	Religious Society of Friends
Felicity Burrows	Worship Development Team—C of S
Lei Gacia	Bethany Christian Trust
Margaret Muir	Guild—Church of Scotland
Elizabeth Blair	Church of Scotland
Ann Bowie	Church of Scotland
Angela Thomson	Roman Catholic Church

The Cook Islands



World Day of Prayer (Scottish Committee)
 Charity Number SC020446
 Website <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk>