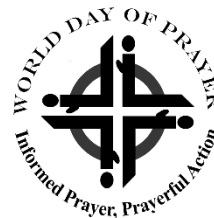


World Day of Prayer
Prepared by the WDP Committee of Cook Islands
March 7, 2025
“I Made You Wonderful”
Psalm 139:14



Short Service

WDP Scottish Committee SCO20446
Website <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk>

WELCOME

Leader

Welcome to this World Day of Prayer Short Service, Kia Orana.

This 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 Cook Islanders use to greet each other. It is about the Joy of life and Joy in life, and gives hope that you may live long and you may live well. That you may shine like the sun and that you may dance with the waves. To be one with nature and appreciate that God made you wonderful, made all of us wonderful. We contrast this to the way the world is and ask what it is we can do to make the world like as God intended.

God made us wonderful from the very beginning, weaving us together in our mother's womb. Every single one of us is unique, and deeply loved by God. Look around! Look at all who are gathered here today take a moment to look around and appreciate the gift of each other!

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. Quiet 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.

Hymn: O God, you search me and you know me

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 ev'ry moment of life or 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

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

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

© Bernadette Farrell: Used with Permission

Leader

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 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.

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.

Ruru Maeva, Cook Islands

PRAYER SONG x 2

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

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.

Written by Ruru Maeva, Cook Islands

: Used with Permission

Psalms 139:7-18 (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.

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.

PRAYER SONG - God who knows us

Leader

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

Woman

Kia orana! My name is Vainiu. I was born in 1958 on Aitutaki island.
My upbringing was deeply rooted in culture, thanks to my parents and grandparents.

I attended Araura Primary School, where my early education was in Cook Islands Maori. However, as I progressed in school, English became increasingly emphasized. The schools I attended discouraged speaking Maori, promoting English as the language of superiority and trade, influenced by Western ideals. This was challenging for me since I was fluent in Maori and had limited English proficiency.

My grandmother, Mama Mereana, was a significant influence in my life, encouraging us to speak Maori and teaching me essential life skills. She was a role model, and through her, I learned to plant and prepare food and speak the Reo Aitutakian dialect properly. I believe that elders play a crucial role in shaping our identities and heritage.

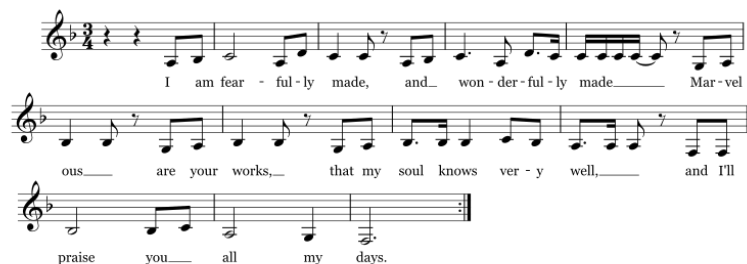
The dominance of English over the years has diminished the value of our Maori language. The formal education I received conflicted with the cultural teachings at home, making me question the relevance of English lessons in practical life skills like planting vegetables, cooking, and household chores. This cultural disconnect led to my disengagement in the classroom.

A memorable and humiliating incident at school involved being punished for speaking Maori. I was made to wear a sign stating, "I am a Maori speaker," and put on detention to pull out prickly weeds, shaming me in front of my peers. This experience motivated me to focus on speaking English and suppress my native language, reflecting the broader devaluation of my culture and language.

I believe that languages are God-given and deserve respect and preservation. The Maori language should be prioritized in education, with teachers and students encouraged to use it across subjects, and parents supporting its use at home.

Despite the negative experiences in my childhood education, I have faith that God was with me during those times of devaluation and shame. God accompanies us even in our darkest moments, leading us towards light.

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



I am fear - ful - ly made, and_ won - der - ful - ly made. Mar - vel - lous_ are your works,_ that my soul knows ver - y well, and I'll praise you_ all my days.

Written by Ruru Maeva, Cook Islands

: Used with Permission

SONG OF PRAISE

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!

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!

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!
Written by Ruru Maeva, Cook Islands: Used by Permission

Leader

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Leader

Today we have been blessed by witness of Christian women from Cook Islands. 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.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

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

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.

John Ellerton in public Domain

BLESSING

Go now, and live this good news:

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

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

Copyright © 2023 World Day of Prayer International Committee, Inc.

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

Next World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March 2026

2026 Nigeria – "I Will Give You Rest: Come"