## Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to our morning prayer, which is part of our 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. As members of the body of Christ we draw near in faith to commit ourselves to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world. Hands to raise awareness by pointing out injustice and unrighteousness and feet to march for change, and to run to those in need of help.

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Preparation**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

and in these last days you have spoken to us

in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us

let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,

your Spirit ever renew our lives

and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Loving Lord,**

**who has called us to be the body of Christ,**

**make us ready to act as his hands and feet in the world.**

**to raise awareness of what must be challenged,**

**and to address the plight of the vulnerable. Amen**

Forgive us, Lord,

who call ourselves your own

but daily cause you pain,

who see someone in need

and walk across the road,

hear about injustice

and fail to say a word.

Forgive us, Lord,

who call ourselves your own.

**Renew our hearts,**

**our souls and minds;**

**Strengthen our faith**

**and make us a people**

**who are your hands,**

**your feet and voice**

**within this world. Amen**

**Scripture Reading**

O people, the Lord has told you what is good,

and this is what he requires of you:

to do what is right, to love mercy,

and to walk humbly with your God.

*Micah 6:8 (NLT)*

*Or*

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body,
so it is with Christ.

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored,
every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

*1 Corinthians 12:12, 24-27*

**The Prayers**

Lord of justice and mercy,

draw us close to those who hurt.

**Let us reach out our hands in your name**

**to share the sorrow and lessen the pain.**

Lord of justice and mercy

lengthen our strides to march for good.

**Clothe our feet with your living Word**

**to trample the works of unrighteousness.**

Lord of justice and mercy

knit us together as the body of Christ

**that we may speak out with one accord**

**for the kingdom of God to prevail. Amen**

God bless you with insight to recognise violence in all its forms

and courage to name it, speaking out for justice.

The Lord Jesus bless you with compassion for the vulnerable.

and grace to stand with them, sharing his strength.

The Holy Spirit bless you with a prayerful heart

and power to breathe peace, transforming the world

The blessing of the holy and gracious Trinity, eternal wisdom, living word, abiding spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Lord, as we begin 16 Days of Activism we pray for the confidence to raise our voices and speak out against the injustice of gender based violence.

We pray that eyes, hearts and minds may be opened during this time – that Lord, it is your will that women are treated with respect and dignity.

We give you thanks for the many members around the world who campaign against gender based violence in the name of Mothers’ Union.

Through our work may we touch the lives of those we meet, that they, too, may know your love. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God,

we thank you that you have brought us safely

to the beginning of this day.

Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,

order us in all our doings and guide us to do always

what is righteous in your sight;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive**

**those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

**Final Blessing**

God above us, **give us faith.**

Christ beside us, **give us love.**

Spirit within us, **give us hope.**

Now may the God of peace equip us

with all we need for doing his will.

May he produce in us,

through the power of Jesus Christ,

every good thing that is pleasing to him.

All glory to him forever and ever! **Amen**