



**Thursday Prayers  
August 2022**

**Transformation – NOW!  
Mary Sumner**

**Welcome and Opening prayer**

Today is a celebration of the life and work and vision of Mary Sumner. Let us give thanks for our sister in Christ. Let us give thanks for all the unknown women who have given their hearts and hands, their strong bodies and minds to improve, comfort and enlighten, those who risked and sometimes lost their lives in the struggle for equality, justice and a decent life for children. And we pray for those for whom the struggle goes on.

Faithful and loving God,  
who called Mary Sumner to strive  
for the renewal of family life:  
give us the gift of your Holy Spirit,  
that through word, prayer and deed  
your family may be strengthened and your people served;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **Lord for the years**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Lord, for the years  
your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us,  
cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us,  
pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years,  
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word,  
the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts  
and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains,  
rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word,  
receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land  
in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed  
by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old,  
for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land,  
be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world  
when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength,  
and comfortless in pain,

hungry and helpless,  
lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world,  
we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves;  
in living power remake us -  
self on the cross  
and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us,  
for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives,  
to live for Christ alone.

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith  
Tune: Revd Michael Baughan*

**Bible Reading: Matthew 25: 34-40 (The Message)**

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.’

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’

Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth:  
Whenever you did one of these things to someone  
overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

## **Reflection**

Let's take a few moments to reflect on the many projects undertaken by members in the Diocese of Manchester; just a few of which are highlighted.

We pray that, through the commitment of our members and friends, we may continue to truly make a difference in the lives of families in our communities.

## **Prayers**

LIVING LORD

You are the light of the world.

We light our candles in prayer  
as you guide us into the future.

We offer our hands to work for all,  
our hearts to care for all,  
our voices to speak to all.

We lay our prayers at your feet

LIVING LORD.

**Amen**

*Kathleen Wilson, then Diocesan President, Durham Diocese*

## **Tell out my soul**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926), from Luke 1 vs46-55  
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## **Blessing**

All praise be to God, by whose power one woman's vision  
became reality through the founding of Mothers' Union.  
All praise be to God who has led us thus far and whose  
Spirit inspires for what lies ahead.

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Thank you for joining in with Thursday Prayers.

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields

Material: as stated

Theme music: Catherine Hilton

Theme image: Aarn Giri on Unsplash.com

Readers: Barbara Pye, Christine Faulkner, Rosemary Taylor, Joy  
Butterworth, Margaret Shewring, Margaret Morris,  
Kirsty Screeton

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**Thursday Prayers next month will be on  
8<sup>th</sup> September - Creation**