

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Order of Service

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer takes place on the first Monday in November – this year on 4 November. In this file is a Suggested Order of Service to help you celebrate the Day of Prayer alongside Baptist sisters and brothers all over the world.

With thanks to Pat White and Claudette Carr for producing the suggested Order of Service.

An accompanying file has further resources, and a prayer guide is also available.



ARISE

SHINE

**WHEN WE RISE UP
HE SHINES THROUGH**

“When we rise up, He shines through SERVICE”

PREPARATION

Have Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer themed posters for the last five years strategically displayed.
All DOP attendees to receive a “SERVICE IS” Bookmark when they are in the worship space (see separate Bookmark printable PDF file)

WELCOME

Help attendees to feel at home in the worship space by having music playing in the background and spend a few minutes greeting each other.

Then the leader welcomes the congregation to the service with these words:

“Our celebratory service this year is based on materials from the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union. We pray that God will be at the heart of our service today and that He will bless and strengthen our Baptist women participating in this international event. We pray for women and children who are experiencing all forms of injustice in our communities that God would use us to make a difference in their lives.

In her address for the 2019 WDP observance Yvonne Pitter, the President for the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union, said:

“Today Baptist Women from around the world come together to study God's word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ. As we focus this year on “SERVICE,” we conclude our 5 year theme of “Arise, Shine!” Baptist Women living out this theme have experienced the Lord shining through them in Community, Transformation, Unity, Justice and Service. We have become more actively involved in our missional activities seeking peace, reconciliation, justice, and development, through prayer, witness and service helping to transform communities. In the Caribbean, Baptist Women have emphasised ministry to abused women and children, and have drawn attention to the problem of human trafficking. For 58 years Baptist Women have used November to pray, fast, attend prayer retreats and other special church based activities. There are many good examples in the Bible of people, such as David and Paul who took great joy in serving God and worshipping Him. We serve God by serving others.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

L Shout to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come before him with joyful songs.

All **Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who make us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep
of his pasture.**

L Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

All **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.
Amen.** (Psalm 100)

Include the Lord's prayer in whatever tradition and language people are comfortable with.

SONG

O Jesus, I have promised (*Baptist Praise and Worship*)

WHY A DAY OF PRAYER?

Make a statement to set the scene using the Resource sheet. Follow on directly with:

FAITH STORIES

Someone to read the stories from Caribbean women which are on the Resource sheet.

PRAYER + POEM:

PRAYER

Father,
Allow me to serve others with a joyful heart;
Never keeping score;
Always giving;
Never expecting to receive.
Allow me to give of myself,
To give of my talents and of my goods,
To give of my time and of my energy,
To give of my heart and of my soul.
Help me understand the needs of others,
Never criticizing,
Never demeaning,
Never scolding,
Never condemning.
You have been so gracious to me,
Always loving,
Always forgiving,
Always restoring;
Never gloating over my defeats,
Even when I have been so wrong.
Father, keep a condemning spirit
Far from my heart and further from my lips.
Allow me to serve others as You serve,
With gentleness, compassion, and tenderness,
Never diminishing the worth of another,
Choosing to extend mercy to the broken hearted,
As You have repeatedly shown it to me,

Amen.

(By Jack Watts)

GREETINGS

Someone reads the message from Ksenija Magda, the BWA Women's President.

(Words on Resource sheet)

SONG

No longer a slave to fear

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God (x2)

You unravel me, with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance, from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God (x2)

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name

POEM *(to be read after the prayer)*

THE GOOD LIFE

When some people talk about money
They speak as if it were a mysterious lover
Who went out to buy milk and never
Came back, and it makes me nostalgic
For the years I lived on coffee and bread,
Hungry all the time, walking to work on payday
Like a woman journeying for water
From a village without a well, then living
One or two nights like everyone else
On roast chicken and red wine.

(Tracy K. Smith, USA Poet Laureate 2017-19)

I've been born again, into your family
Your blood flows through my veins

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God (x2)

You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears are drowned in perfect love
You rescued me and I will stand and sing
I am a child of God

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God (x2)

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BIBLE READING

Matthew 20: 20-28

REFLECTION/SERMON/TALK/BIBLE STUDY

*There are some suggestions/ideas on the Resource sheet.
Follow directly on with:*

SERVING OTHERS

Power Point Presentation of Yvonne Pitter's nine examples of blessings we experience by serving others (have someone read the examples if there are no equipment to project the image) Follow directly by music VIDEO: Nara ekele mo/Oli Katonda(Swa) Medley Cover (www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWxssZxoKRE)

Time to Focus - *use this brief time, during the playing of the music, to offer up to God your personal response to the question, "What is God asking me to render to Him in service to others?"*

SONG

Brother, Sister let Me Serve You (*Baptist Praise and Worship*)

OFFERING

A recording of the song "If I Can Help Somebody as I Pass Along ... Then My Living Shall Not be in Vain" is played during the collection.

Please remember to share information on how the offerings/monetary gifts are to be used and the various ministries and projects being supported this year.

Information is on the Resource Sheet, including how and where to send the monetary gifts.

PRAYERS – in solidarity with women globally.

Select a prayer from each of the countries represented in the Prayer Guide Resource sheet; to be read by, preferably two different voices.

Conclude the collection of prayers with, "In God we are all created, in Christ we are all made whole, in the Spirit we are all united". Amen.

SONG

Tell Out My Soul (*Mission Praise*)

RESPONSE ACTION

Leader to read the last section of Yvonne's Pitter's address (below). Inform attendees of the information table with resources to aid their calling to serve others.

"Sometimes Christians give excuses for not serving, such as "I don't have the time," "they don't need me," or "I don't have any special skills to contribute." However, 'God doesn't call the equipped: He equips the called.' The Bible tells how God used people with similar doubts to change the course of history:

Moses—not a leader or speaker, but God used him to bring Israel out of slavery

David—youngest of all his brothers but God worked through him to defeat a giant. Eventually had him crowned King

Paul—killer of Christians before he met Jesus, became one of the most highly regarded and prolific writers and church planters in history

God doesn't just want to work through you— He wants to work in you.

God bless you my sisters as you participate in this year's DOP and then **Arise, Shine through Service**"

If possible have a table, strategically located within or outside the worship area, with information on a range of services aimed at helping and supporting people and communities to combat social injustice e.g. Human Trafficking, Refugee, Asylum, Immigration, Women's Rights, Poverty, Housing, Health, Well-being and Debt Counselling etc. include on the table information on organisations working nationally and globally to improve people's circumstances.

BLESSING

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

(*Hebrews 13: 20-21 ESV*)

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The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) is changing its legal status from a charitable unincorporated association to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). From 1 January 2020, BUGB will operate as a CIO with registered charity number 1181392.

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