

3 DECEMBER 2023 – 1 JUNE 2024

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

USPG⁺ UNITED SOCIETY
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners with churches around the world reflecting the call of God to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

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Please note that the views expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of USPG.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this new edition of the USPG prayer diary.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

It features prayers for some of the most special and reflective moments in the church calendar including Advent and Lent, and we hope that the prayers and reflections here can help your daily prayer life.

Our Lent course and the theme of much of our work throughout the year is “Freedom in Christ”, and you will find this woven throughout these pages alongside stories from our programmes around the world. It truly is a special thing to know that we are praying for the global Anglican Communion.

You will notice that the prayer book looks a little different. We wanted to make it somewhat more visual to support the text in each page – for those who find it helpful. Thanks to the feedback we received, we decided to keep the same size (handy to tuck into your Bibles and bags) and brought back the map, which I know a lot of people missed from the last edition. I do hope you like the refresh! Our next step will be to translate the booklet so that we can share it globally and give our partner churches around the world the opportunity to pray with us.

Thank you for your continued support of USPG’s work.

Rachael Anderson,
Senior Communications & Engagement Manager



MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS

This prayer diary could not exist without the thoughtful contributions and reflections from our partners around the world. Please do remember them as you pray.



THE REV'D DR CARLTON TURNER

(Pg 42-43) became a USPG Trustee in July 2018. Carlton was born in the Bahamas, trained for ordination at Codrington College in Barbados and was ordained in 2005. He is an Anglican tutor in Contextual Theology, Mission and Evangelism at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham.



REV'D CANON DR PENIEL RAJKUMAR

(Pg 40-41) is the USPG Theologian and Director of Global Mission. Peniel's important contributions to the understanding of mission today and key interfaith dialogues on behalf of the WCC serve as excellent experience at USPG where we hold Anglican theologies that are genuinely global in their vision and scope. Peniel was ordained in the Diocese of London and served his curacy in North London (2005-2008), while completing his PhD in Applied Theology from the University of Kent at Canterbury. He has written extensively on Dalit theology, missiology and interfaith dialogue. He is also an Honorary Minor Canon Theologian at York Minster.



CHRISTINA TAKATSU WINNISCHOFER

(Pg 20-21) has been the Provincial Secretary of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil since November 2022. She has a degree in Psychology and a master's in religious science. She also has experience working for International NGOs.



RT.REVD. SHOURABH PHOLIA

(Pg 18-19) is the Deputy Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and Bishop of the Barishal Diocese. He has been serving the church for the last 23 years in various roles as a clergy member, Theological teacher and Bishop. He previously served as the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Bible Society.

THE RIGHT REVEREND BEVERLY MASON

(Pg 34-35) is the Bishop of Warrington in the Diocese of Liverpool, UK. Born in Germany, she trained for ordained ministry at Trinity College, Bristol. Bishop Bev has much experience of mission, evangelism, church growth and discipleship and of leadership development. She is a Trustee of Leading your Church into Growth (LYCIG), a member of Leading in Evangelism and the Archbishop's College of Evangelists. She is a Media Bishop and chaplain to the Communications Network; she was part of the implementation group to form a new non-residential Theological College – Emmanuel – to serve the North West, and she presently serves Emmanuel as a Trustee and Chair of the Finance Group.



3-9 DECEMBER

THE HOPE OF ADVENT

REFLECTIONS

This week we centre our thoughts on hope. It's an opportunity to remember the hope God offers, through His Son Jesus, to our flawed and fractured world.

Read Galatians 4:4-8

Paul, the writer of Galatians, articulates so perfectly the great hope we celebrate at Christmas. Without God's intervention, we were all bound and condemned by our sinful nature. However, through God's great love for us, He came down and rescued humanity by sending His Son as a sacrifice for our sins – so we could be free from the chains that bind us and to have life eternal.

We have seen so many atrocities in 2023 – wars, terrorism, natural disasters, hunger, loss. It is far too easy to look around the world in which we live and see only despair and pain. This week we have an opportunity to remember the hope God has given us through His only son Jesus Christ.

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation.



SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER (FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT)

O Come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(Based on the ancient Advent Antiphons)



PRAYERS

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER Lord, we invite the Holy Spirit into the Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation.

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER We offer up in prayer all the situations we have experienced or witnessed throughout the year to you Lord. Shine Your light of hope into our lives.

WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER We pray for the work of our Anglican partner churches across the world – for the hope that they can bring to individuals and communities.

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER Abba Father, we give thanks today for the personal relationship we have with You. Thank you, Lord, for knowing each one of us and for your unconditional love.

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER Lord, in a world that can often seem to be filled with pain, we ask for the hope of Christ to shine on the world.

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER Let us pray for church leaders – lay and ordained. May they preach a gospel of love and hope.



REFLECTIONS

10-16 DECEMBER THE FAITH OF ADVENT

The second week of Advent allows us to prepare our hearts in faithful waiting, a chance for us to explore what our faith means to us.

Read Luke 1:26–38

The story of Mary is a great example of faith. She was open to God's word and obedient to His will. She did not desire proof, for she believed God could bring His plans to fruition. However, the passage tells us that she was troubled. Understandably so. Her fear is based on her physical limitations. She just wanted to know how.

So many of us can let fear – the whys and the what-ifs – take over in our lives. Can we follow Mary's example this Advent and allow our faith to contain curiosity on how things may happen but believe firmly that God will do exactly what He promises? Can we trust in the assurance that our faith is rooted in God's promise that He gave His Son so that we may have life at its fullest.



SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER (SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY)

We prepare our hearts to receive You, O Lord,
and open our hearts to receive one another.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER As yesterday was Human Rights Day, let us celebrate the fundamental rights we share and safeguard the rights of our fellow human beings.

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER Lord, we pray for unwavering faith as we journey through the season of Advent and as we approach the beginning of the new year.

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER Heavenly Father, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Your birth joyfully, we thank You for the example of faith we have in Mary.

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER Lord Jesus Christ, when we are uncertain about what we should do, show us Your ways. When we don't know which way to turn, teach us Your paths. Help us to be attentive to Your voice as You guide us through life.

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER Lord, thank you for being faithful and fulfilling all Your promises. You have said that faith comes through hearing the word of God. Open our ears that we may be attentive to Your voice. Help us to listen and respond.

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER Thank you, God, that You have plans for us and they are for us to prosper and give us hope and a future. May Your word to us be fulfilled.



REFLECTIONS

17-23 DECEMBER THE JOY OF ADVENT

On the third week of Advent, we reflect on the joy of Jesus' coming and the access to God this brings.

Read Philippians 4:4-5

This verse is often used for this week of Advent, as it encourages us to "rejoice" for "indeed the Lord is near." In other words, this week celebrates the joy of Christ's coming to earth. It reminds us that despite the struggles of this year, the presence of Jesus reassures us.

Depending on the translation, joy appears more than 100 times in the Bible. This is a biblical joy – it goes far beyond momentary happiness. So much in life today is often based on instant gratification – getting the latest piece of technology as a Christmas present, raising a toast with family and friends or that warm glow we get singing Christmas carols. However, biblical joy is an extreme happiness that cannot be deterred by present circumstances. A great example of this is the eager anticipation and joy of the shepherds as they ran to meet Jesus. This type of joy comes from God alone and is often experienced when a Christian truly understands the beauty of Jesus and His gift of salvation and eternal life.

The opportunity to reflect on joy at Advent is important. Despite the darkness that we often feel when we look outwards to the world, we can have light.



SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER (THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
(Psalm 27:1)



PRAYERS

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER (INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY) Let us remember the plight of migrants around the world. May we offer them hospitality, hope and joy.

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER Lord, we ask that Your Spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation. Prepare our hearts as we joyfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our King.

WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER O Lord, help us to see the wonder in your creation, to find the joy amidst the trials. For in you, we can rejoice and be glad. No matter what the world brings, we can find joy in You.

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER We ask you God to heal us, restore our relationships, and finish Your good work in us. Mend this broken world so joy can be felt by all nations.

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER We pray that the joy of the Lord will be evident in our hearts and homes this Advent.

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5).

REFLECTIONS

24-30 DECEMBER LOVE AT ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

This week we centre our thoughts on love, particularly God's love for us and His call to us to love one another.

Read 1 John 4:7-17

The Bible talks often about love. We are told in this passage that "God is love" and that it was this love that propelled Him to send His Son to be our Saviour. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story, and it is the foundation of our Christian faith.

It is important to remember that the Christmas story is connected to God's bigger story of love and redemption traced through the Bible. As we look back and remember the first advent this week, we can see God's promise of redemption fulfilled and we know that a new era of God's restoration has been ushered in. What can we do now as we wait for the second Advent of Christ? The answer is beautifully simple: we are to do what He does – love.

When He was asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus answered, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-40). And so, this Advent, let us ask how we can love God and love our neighbour more fully.



SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER (FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE)

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary

and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS DAY) O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today (Phillips Brooks 1835-1893).

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER (SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR) Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt. Amen (adapt. Church of England Collect)

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER (JOHN THE APOSTLE) Today we celebrate the feast of Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist. May we strive to be "pillars of the Church" as he was.

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER (HOLY INNOCENTS) On this day, may we cherish our young people and provide them with the guidance and knowledge to navigate our complex and challenging world.

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER Lord, we pray for clergy around the world. We recognise the difficulties and challenges they may have faced throughout the year. As the busy period of Christmas draws to a close, may they be refreshed and revived, ready to lead their parishes into the new year.

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER We pray for senior church leaders around the world – bishops, primates and archbishops. We pray too for the head of the Anglican Church, The Most Revd Justin Welby. May they guide us all in 2024 with strength, grace and wisdom.



REFLECTIONS

31 DECEMBER- 6 JANUARY

LOOKING TO 2024 - FREEDOM IN CHRIST

The Revd Duncan Dormor, USPG General Secretary

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.' (Galatians 5:10)

As we step into the new year, we know that our world is a deeply uncertain place. Few of us predicted the events of the last few years – the Covid-19 pandemic, a major land war in Europe, the cost-of-living crisis or conflict in the Holy Land. We do not know what lies ahead in 2024.

We can only step forward, as Paul noted, 'by faith and not by sight.'

As individuals, as flesh and blood, we all crave freedom and security – freedom from injustice and violence, and the security that a good livelihood, friends, community, just laws and the government bring. And so our hearts naturally go out to all who live with deep insecurity and oppression.

As we are called by God to walk faithfully through 2024, so are we called to a freedom rooted in Christ. This is an active, life-giving freedom, a freedom that reaches out towards others.

It is expressed in our solidarity with our sisters and brothers, and with our neighbours, global and local. A solidarity that sets people free, ourselves and others. It begins when we come before our loving God in prayer, and it equips us for the walk ahead.

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER (FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS)

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it".
(Psalm 24:1-2)

O God,
we have profoundly damaged creation.
Give us the strength to recover what we have tainted,
amplify the voices calling for renewal.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 1 JANUARY (NAMING OF JESUS) Heavenly Father, we thank you for coming into the world through Jesus. May we follow Your calling and know that we are loved.

TUESDAY 2 JANUARY As we start a new year, we pray that we look to this year with hope for the future – free of fear, faithful in Christ.

WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY Thank You for our salvation in Christ, and thank you Father, for the freedom we have in Him. We pray that we walk with love and care on God's earth, and vital awareness of God's comprehensive vision and purpose for our lives.

THURSDAY 4 JANUARY We bring before You our world leaders and governments as they make decisions around their countries, the environment and justice. May they work together with the understanding that all must be involved to create change.

FRIDAY 5 JANUARY We pray for the work of USPG and its partner churches throughout this new year. May its vision – that the churches of the Anglican Communion experience a deeper fellowship together in Christ and be sources of transformation within their communities and beyond – be at the heart of all its work.

SATURDAY 6 JANUARY (EPIPHANY) Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. May we continue to be His witnesses, spreading the Gospel wherever we go.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

7-13 JANUARY

“WHOM SHALL I SEND” – EPISCOPAL PROVINCE OF JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST

**The Revd Davidson Solanki, USPG Regional Manager,
Asia and the Middle East**

In August 2023, after two years of working with the Province – listening to, and discerning their needs and desires for the future – USPG were delighted that the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East launched their new programme “Whom Shall I Send”.

The youth training programme has been created in part to tackle gaps in leadership and encourage youth participation in the Province’s mission. With the recent conflict erupting between Israel and Palestine in October 2023, the complex history emphasises the importance of investing in future leaders and equipping young people to handle these sensitivities.

The training programme is structured to equip lay and ordained persons for mission in local churches alongside parish priests. The training will take the form of practical workshops so that the beauty around the complexities of the area within which the youth will be working can be understood, and their worship and fellowship can support the mission. There will be a focus on justice, climate change and persecution. This is an innovative and encouraging programme, and USPG is honoured to be accompanying them on this journey.

As we write this prayer diary piece, we weep as we witness the violence that continues to unfold in Israel and Palestine. We uphold in prayer all who are suffering due to the hostilities. We join with churches and religious organisations around the world in a call for peace and an end to the violence. We pray that this programme may be able to continue to bring hope and light amid despair.

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY (FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
(Isaiah 6:8)



PRAYERS

MONDAY 8 JANUARY Loving God, we pray for every young individual taking part in the “Whom Shall I Send” programme. May they be ignited in their faith to serve their communities.

TUESDAY 9 JANUARY We pray for Archbishop Hosam Naoum and other Christian leaders in the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East as they continue to serve their people and work for peace and reconciliation.

WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY We pray for the people of the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East as they face uncertainty and unrest in their country. Lord, bring peace and stability.

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY Help us remember Lord, in all that we do, that we are all Your children. We are all equal.

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to You amid the pain and trauma of violence and fear that prevails in the Holy Land. We pray for an end to violence and the establishment of peace in the region.

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY Let us reflect today that all human life belongs to God. We have been created in the image of God, crowned with dignity and honour.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

14-20 JANUARY

CLIMATE JUSTICE FROM BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

**The Rt Revd Shourabh Pholia, Bishop of Barishal Diocese,
Church of Bangladesh.**

Climate justice is an issue that holds immense significance for Bangladesh, particularly as it is a low-lying coastal area vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The impacts include rise in sea levels, cyclones and severe flooding. The people of Bangladesh, who bear little responsibility for global greenhouse gas emissions, suffer the most from these consequences. This stark injustice reflects the teachings of the Bible, which emphasise empathy and justice for the vulnerable.

The Bible encourages us to be good caretakers or stewards by cultivating and caring for the earth (Genesis 2:15). The mandate extends to addressing climate change, which disproportionately affects impoverished communities in Bangladesh. Climate justice, from a Biblical perspective, calls for taking responsibility for our environmental actions and rectifying the harm inflicted on the most vulnerable.

The Bible emphasises principles of love, compassion, care and justice. God calls us to respond to those who are oppressed. The entire Creation is now neglected, exploited and at risk. Climate justice, from a Biblical perspective, calls for doing justice with love towards our neglected planet's health and its impact on impoverished communities worldwide.

In recent years, Bangladesh has been at the forefront of advocating for climate justice on the global stage, demanding equity in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. They call for accountability from the nations with historically high emissions, echoing the biblical call for justice.

Climate justice from the perspective of Bangladesh underscores the moral imperative to address climate change and its disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities, echoing the call for justice and care for 'the least of these' as seen in the scriptures (Matthew 25:40). It serves as a reminder that climate action is not just an environmental issue but a deeply moral one, demanding global cooperation and accountability.

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY (SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY)

Heavenly Father, help us work together on behalf of all Creation as part of that mighty river of peace and justice to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 15 JANUARY Let us pray for strength and wisdom to adapt to changes and build resilient communities to withstand the climate challenges that lie ahead.

TUESDAY 16 JANUARY We pray for the vulnerable communities around the world who are affected by climate change, especially for those who are in need of protection, provision and support.

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY Lord God, we pray for those in positions of power and decision-making to address the issue of climate change and stand together to save the earth.

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY Let us pray for ourselves, asking God to guide us so that we can play the stewardship role and take responsibility to heal the planet and protect it for future generations.

FRIDAY 19 JANUARY Please pray for the Barishal Diocese, Church of Bangladesh, so that its initiatives to care for the Creation can be a blessing to the local people.

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY Help us O Lord to always uphold the principles of love, compassion, care and justice.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

21-27 JANUARY

PROVINCIAL PROGRAMME ON CAPACITY BUILDING IN PARANÁ

Christina Takatsu Winnischofer, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

The Province of Brazil programme this year is supporting the capacity building of clergy and lay people in the Anglican Missionary District (DMA) and the Anglican Diocese of Paraná (DAPAR), aiming to expand the church in both areas. DMA is an area made up of three states in the west of the country, and DAPAR covers the area of the state of Paraná in the south of Brazil.

Through different trainings and meetings, the church is deepening its reflection on personal and community commitments to the mission. By raising awareness of the role and responsibilities of Anglican Christians and providing the tools needed, the church intends to face the challenges of the Brazilian context on the many missionary fronts.

In each area, the communities have very diverse backgrounds; however, DMA and DAPAR are heavily involved in activities for social justice – supporting youth, women, landless and indigenous people. For the sustainability of these projects, more labour force is needed, not only technical professionals but leaders that understand the Gospel call.



SUNDAY 21 JANUARY

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19–20).



PRAYERS

MONDAY 22 JANUARY We pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, that the Church and its work may be a testimony to the love of God.

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY Heavenly Father, we pray for all the clergy and laity in the Province of Brazil. May You strengthen them in will, knowledge and health so that they can reach out to their communities.

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY (INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION) Let us pray for teachers, professors and all those involved in educating children and young adults. May we care for them as they care for those they are educating.

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY (PAUL'S CONVERSION) We pray for those outside of the Church, that they may feel God's love. We also pray for those responsible for evangelism in the Church, ensuring it is done in a sensitive yet effective manner.

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY (TIMOTHY AND TITUS) Today is the feast of both Saint Timothy and Saint Titus. May we discern our roles in the Church and commit to them, whether in positions of leadership or as faithful members of the laity.

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) Today we remember the atrocities of the Holocaust. May we continue to commemorate these tragic events in the hope that they will never happen again.



REFLECTIONS

28 JANUARY – 3 FEBRUARY

WELCOMING THE STRANGER – A CANDLEMAS REFLECTION

**The Revd Annie Bolger, the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
Brussels, Belgium**

As we approach the joyful celebration of Candlemas, we also remember the shadows cast over Jesus' early experiences. Matthew's Gospel speaks of a frightening threat to Jesus' life, and an angel warns Joseph to flee from his homeland with Mary and his young son. They narrowly escape and seek asylum in Egypt.

The Holy Family's refugee status enriches our Christian ethos towards refugees today. Due to climate crises, war, famine and many other factors, the UNHCR estimates that 117.2 million people were forcibly displaced or stateless in 2023. The numbers will only rise in the year ahead and may simply overwhelm us. We cannot possibly imagine the trauma and difficulty that each person's story represents. That is why Jesus came among us as a refugee: to remind us of the humanity and dignity of every displaced person.

In Brussels, the existing infrastructure for refugees is inadequate, and many asylum seekers are living on the streets. We run a community kitchen in partnership with USPG that provides over 5,000 meals each week to people in need, the vast majority of whom are asylum seekers. This Candlemas, we remember the elderly Simeon taking the refugee child Jesus in his arms and praying for peace. Let us light our candles and remember that the light of Christ shines for all people.

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY (THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT)

Light our darkness, O Lord,
and reveal the unspeakable
lest we forget the victims of our inhumanity.
Turn our hearts to repentance
and our actions to justice.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 29 JANUARY We pray for all people and families who are displaced from their homelands. May we always be mindful of the humanity and dignity of each displaced person.

TUESDAY 30 JANUARY Accept, we pray, our sorrow for the times when we have not shown compassion and mercy to those You have created in love and for love. Help us grow in courage and hope, always ready to welcome the stranger.

WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY We pray for Holy Trinity in Brussels and for their Community Kitchen – may it continue to provide hot meals to those who are in need.

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY Father God, we pray for all of the chaplaincies throughout the Diocese in Europe and for all the work and programmes that they do to support displaced people.

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY (THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE – CANDLEMAS)
Radiant God, we thank You for bringing light into the world through Jesus. May we be redeemed by You.

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY Father God, we pray for peace throughout the world.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

4-10 FEBRUARY

GENDER JUSTICE IN CHRIST

Ellen McMibanga, Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programme

Many men and women are holding hands to put a stop to abuse in households and the community as the call for gender justice continues to be raised by humanity.

“Gender equality is the goal that will help abolish poverty,” asserts Graça Machel (founder of the Graça Machel Trust and a member of The Elders), “which will create more equal economies, fairer societies, and happier men, women and children.”

By accepting that men, women and children are equally made by God, freely reconciled by Christ, and given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit, we can establish and uphold justice. The call for gender justice serves as a reminder to everyone to treat one another with respect and love, honouring the reality that God loves us (2 Corinthians 5:17). “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

In order to promote gender equity and eradicate injustices that are being practised in our homes, communities and countries, it is the responsibility of the Church and all of us.

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY (SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT)

Loving God,
Let us renew our love for all of humanity.
May we focus on spreading
the faith, hope and love
You give to us.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY We pray for the Anglican Church in Zambia – for all the projects and programmes they are running to give justice and a voice to the oppressed and to care for their communities.

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY Blessed is she who had faith that the Lord’s promise would be fulfilled. All generations shall call her blessed. (Luke 1:45)

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY Let us pray for gender justice across the world, remembering that gender equality can lead to the abolishment of poverty.

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY Thank you, Lord, that we have been made equally by You. May we be unwavering in our support for establishing and upholding justice in our homes, churches and communities.

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY Help us O Lord to ensure that we treat everyone we encounter with respect and love.

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY We pray for the church leaders, clergy and laity of the Anglican Church of Zambia. May they lead with wisdom, showing the example of equality to their congregations.



REFLECTIONS

11-17 FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

The Revd Jessie Anand, Chaplain, USPG

Ash Wednesday gives meaning to our Lenten journey. A dramatic way with ashes on our forehead on this special day provokes in everyone the remembrance that we are dust and to dust we shall return. In my church, the ashes we use come from the previous year's palm crosses. Ashes bring to our minds humility, simplicity and mortality.

In India where I grew up, the essence of the 40 days reminded me of "the crucified Jesus on the Cross" daily at 12 noon. Whenever we heard the church bell ring at 12 noon, we needed to stop whatever we were doing and stand up to spend two minutes in silence to remember the suffering of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus' passion and His mission are the driving force for our reflection on these days. In my local church in India, a Hundi box will be given on Ash Wednesdays. We are encouraged to put money in the Hundi box whenever we abstain from our food. This box will be given on Good Friday to support the needy. Giving up a meal generates space to repent and to practice generosity.

Ash Wednesday is a good reminder to connect with the Lord individually through ashes, church bells, Hundi boxes, and to encourage people to share their life stories and pray for/with one another. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of discernment, and it helps us to develop spiritual insights in our Christian journey.

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY (THE NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT)

Make in us new and contrite hearts, O God,
that we turn our money into bread for
our neighbour
as we journey towards Easter,
and prepare to kneel at the foot of the Cross.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY As we approach the season of Lent, we pray for courage to face uncomfortable truths. May we be honest in our reckoning of the past and sensitive in our unfolding the future.

TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY Heavenly Father, help us prepare for the holy season of Lent. Allow our focus to be fully on You and the Cross.

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY (ASH WEDNESDAY) Let us pray for our broken world and sinful selves. May our hearts be turned and Your passion for justice be released.

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY We pray for all who seek to educate and inform. May our places of learning be open to all, offering new pathways and new vision.

FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY (USPG FOUNDERS DAY) We pray for the work of USPG on the day that we remember its founder, Thomas Bray. May we look back with open minds to discover new insights to inform the path we tread.

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY Let us give thanks for the vision that inspired USPG. May we, like Thomas Bray, seek to deepen our understanding of the Gospel, be attentive to the world and promote the common good.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

18-24 FEBRUARY

STORIES OF HOPE, UKRAINE – TWO YEARS ON...

Rachel Weller, Digital Communications Officer, USPG

On a rainy afternoon in Bytom, southern Poland, an art class is taking place for those displaced by the nearby Russian invasion. Whilst the children run around and play with a volunteer, the adults try their hand at some painting. “It feels like home here” says one Ukrainian mother. “I work from my flat a lot because my company is based in Ukraine, so I often don’t see anyone. Coming here gives me a chance to chat and spend time with friends.”

For her daughter, the story is similar. In a predominantly Polish school, her daughter often feels lonely and isolated, and she struggles to be understood because of the language barrier. As the team leader explains, the project has evolved significantly since the first few families arrived within a week of war breaking out. What started out as a facility for short-term aid has now grown and developed because the Lutheran World Federation “has listened to people’s needs”. Now the focus has shifted to long-term assistance related to mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).

Services such as counselling and community centres are therefore key in helping Ukrainians overcome the many obstacles encountered while fleeing their home country and settling somewhere new. LWF Community Centers (6 in total) serve the Ukrainian refugees as well as the local Polish communities and bring both together in common understanding and tolerance.

Find out more: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-and-development-work/where-we-work/poland>

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY (FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11



PRAYERS

MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY Let us give thanks to God for the core team who run the community centre in Bytom. Pray for strength and creativity as they lead a wide variety of activities for multi-generational families, individuals and children.

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY (WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE) Let us give thanks that we serve a gracious God who provides hope and a future.

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY (INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE DAY) We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (ECACP) and its local parishes as they reach out to those in need.

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY We pray for the counsellors who help heal the unseen wounds of war. May those who receive therapy know peace and protection.

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY We pray God’s protection on the Ukrainian people who receive support from the LWF’s community centre. We pray particularly for the children as they settle into schools; may God be close in a place that can feel lonely.

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY (ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF UKRAINE) Two years on, we continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for an end to all conflicts around the world. We remember all those who have suffered and experienced loss through conflict and we pray for peace.



REFLECTIONS

25 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH

LENT REFLECTION: FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Revd. Bianca Daébs (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)

If, therefore, the Son sets you free, you will be free. John 8:36

The theme of freedom is present in many biblical texts, especially in some passages of the Gospel, such as in the text of John 3:36, which emphasises the theme of Freedom in Christ. The text says, “If Jesus sets you free, you can be truly free.” So here are two questions: free from what and free for what?

To answer both questions, you need to draw closer to Jesus and understand the principles that drive your life and faith.

The freedom to love the other as oneself, the exercise of otherness proposed in the Gospel of Jesus, invites us to two movements: the first is to recognize our captivity, to know exactly where our ties are, our difficulty in prioritizing what really matters, what transcends in our relationships. It is only after this experience of the emptying of our vanities that we can go beyond ourselves, towards others.

In the world God has planned for us, the freedom to love and serve guides human relationships. Anything that violates these relationships leads us away from the dignified and righteous life that God has designed for us.

Today, Jesus, through his message, continues to invite us to experience the true freedom that enables us to break the captivity that still binds us in order to freely and collectively build a more just and dignified world.

This is a sample taken from the 2024 USPG Lent Course which you can download and order from our website www.uspg.org.uk

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY (SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT)

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst
into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Isaiah 55.12



PRAYERS

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY We pray Lord that you open our hearts so that we love our neighbours and welcome all.

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY Pray for God to be at the centre of our human relationships – with family members, colleagues, friends, and all in our lives.

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY Throughout the season of Lent help us recognise and remember the freedom that we can find through Christ.

THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY Thank you for our Salvation in Christ, and thank you Father, for the freedom we have in Him.

FRIDAY 1 MARCH (ST DAVID' S DAY) Let us pray for the Church in Wales and give thanks for the life and legacy of St David.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH We pray for the work and mission Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, that the Church and its work may be a testimony to the love of God.



PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

3 DECEMBER 2023 – 1 JUNE 2024





REFLECTIONS

3-9 MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY REFLECTION

Written by Rt Revd Beverley A Mason MA, Bishop of Warrington

Read Mark 7:24-29

Some theologians believe that the woman is teaching the Teacher that to such as she, an 'outsider'/Gentile/Syro-Phoenician, belongs the Kingdom of God

A woman with a sick daughter hears of a miracle worker. But how does she get to Him? The power differences between them are too great. He is a man in a patriarchal culture; He is a teacher, what did she know? He has status and renown, she is alone. Where is her husband, brother, father? Where was the sisterhood? He is a religious leader, but it is not her religion. Imagine the mental, physical, spiritual and social barriers she must cross. Jesus calls her a 'dog'. At any point, she could be beaten or flee in fear or shame. Yet courageously she stays, humbles herself before Him and pleads for her child.

Some theologians believe the woman is teaching the Teacher that to such as her belongs the Kingdom of God. Kenneth Bailey by contrast suggests Jesus is using a clever theatrical technique, speaking the words expressed on the faces of His disciples whilst warmly encouraging the woman to press on to demonstrate that to such as this woman belongs the Kingdom of God. What do you think?

Clearly, we're learning that all kinds of constructs can get in the way of us and God; that the faith, hope and love of just one woman can tear down barriers between us and Jesus – freedom, truth and healing. Just imagine the transformation by faith, hope and love when many women come together! Are you up for it?

SUNDAY 3 MARCH (THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT)

Spirit of God, strong as the wind
and gentle as the dove,
blow into our hearts
and fill them with Your love
that we may be born anew
and know life in all its fullness.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 4 MARCH Like the Syro-Phoenician, may we have the courage to transcend mental, spiritual, social and religious boundaries and humbly kneel before the Lord our God, bringing our gifts of faith, hope and love.

TUESDAY 5 MARCH Let us pray for our faithful witness. Pray for all Christian communities that we will be slow to judge and quick to welcome, to show hospitality, mercy and generosity.

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH Pray for all women who are holding households, people, family, friends and businesses together. Where a woman has been silenced, may she find her voice; where she is abused, may she recover her dignity; where she is fighting for the vulnerable, may she find her strength; where she is tormented, may she receive healing; when she pleads for the life of another, may she catch the Lord's gaze and know she is heard and they are loved.

THURSDAY 7 MARCH (SAINT FELICITY AND SAINT PERPETUA) Let us pray for those persecuted for their faith. May they find solace in the prayers of others, fortitude under threat and hope in despair.

FRIDAY 8 MARCH (INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY) Let us pray for women throughout the world. May they know dignity, equality and fullness of life, and courage and solidarity in the face of oppression.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH Lord, we pray that women with one heart and mind will exert their power and authority to work for peace.



REFLECTIONS

10-16 MARCH LENT REFLECTION: JUSTMONEY MOVEMENT

Matt Ceaser, Movement Builder, JustMoney Movement

Read Deuteronomy 15:1, 4-5, 15

The Exodus is perhaps the defining story of the people of God in the Hebrew Bible. They understood themselves as a people who had been miraculously rescued from slavery – by the power of God alone – and brought into a new land in which they were to live distinctively.

For Christians, this story points ahead to the even greater rescue of all humanity through the saving work of Jesus. Once we were enslaved in our sin, but Christ's death and resurrection accomplish what no human effort could achieve in liberating us to a life of freedom.

Yet for many around the world today, poverty is limiting their sense of any kind of freedom.

Poverty means having fewer choices for how to live, and bigger risks if those choices go wrong. It can also lead to exclusion from many areas of life, whether through lack of time, education, or status. Simple pleasures such as food, hobbies, and socialising become out of reach, as all money goes on essentials. The experience of poverty can feel a million miles from life to the full (John 10:10) or the freedom for which Christ has set us free (Galatians 5:1).

God's vision of freedom, revealed in the Old Testament law and brought to completion in Christ, is clearly concerned that no one should feel the shackles of debt slavery and of poverty limiting their capacity to enjoy that freedom. And we, as Christians, must take up the challenge of ensuring that no one in our society is in need when there are sufficient resources to go around. This means being generous with what we have and sharing with those in need, but it also means advocating for an economy that works for everyone.

www.justmoney.org.uk

This is a sample taken from the 2024 USPG Lent Course which you can download and order from our website www.uspg.org.uk

SUNDAY 10 MARCH (FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MOTHERING SUNDAY)

In a world of limited resources, Lord,
where a few have too much
and most have too little,
teach us there's enough for all,
if we can only learn to share.

(Nick Fawcett)



PRAYERS

MONDAY 11 MARCH As yesterday was Mothering Sunday, we thank you Lord for all who are mothers and all who mother. May you surround them with your blessings and help them know how appreciated they are.

TUESDAY 12 MARCH Help us Lord to be advocates for a fairer economy which prevents poverty and the lack of freedom that comes along with this.

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH Oh Lord, may you keep our minds open and our hearts generous.

THURSDAY 14 MARCH (COMMONWEALTH DAY) Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Commonwealth, a political association of 54 free and equal states across the world.

FRIDAY 15 MARCH We pray Lord for the mission of the JustMoney Movement and their vision of a world where money is used to shape a fairer, greener future for everyone.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH Let us pray for us all to receive the freedom we have in Christ.



17-23 MARCH

LENT REFLECTION: TRUE REPENTANCE IS THE KEY TO CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Rev. Dr. Simon Ro, Dean of Graduate School of Theology at Sungkonghoe (Anglican) University, Seoul, Korea

Read Luke 13:1-9

Freedom is an idea that permeates most of the major religions in our world. This idea is essential to any spiritual journey, and for many the journey focuses on how to become liberated from a love for self, a state of self-righteousness and complacency.

What is Christianity's approach towards freedom? The Gospel of Luke (13:1-9) gives insight to answers this question, but a key idea is that of repentance. Jesus Christ stresses the universal need for repentance and shows us that unless we repent and respond to the challenges of our world, we will suffer such "disasters" as hopelessness, loneliness, frustration, anger and fear. Jesus does not want just devotion but rather a deep sincere change in heart and attitude which results in a change of behaviour – both spiritual and physical.

For true freedom to happen, true repentance must occur. We are challenged to recognise the need for true repentance and pursue a change in our thinking, attitude, and behaviour. This is definitely a message for consideration and change during this Lent season.

This is a sample taken from the 2024 USPG Lent Course which you can download and order from our website www.uspg.org.uk

SUNDAY 17 MARCH (FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, PASSION SUNDAY, ST PATRICK'S DAY)

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,

even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him

and given him the name that is above every name.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 18 MARCH As yesterday was St. Patrick's Day, let us pray for the Church of Ireland and give thanks for the life and legacy of St Patrick.

TUESDAY 19 MARCH Help us Lord understand that for true freedom we must have true repentance.

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH (JOSEPH OF NAZARETH) Let us pray for husbands and fathers. May they have the compassion and steadfastness of Joseph and know courage and joy in the face of challenge.

THURSDAY 21 MARCH (UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION) Let us pray for all victims of racial prejudice, discrimination, and persecution. May we be aware of our own bias and be strengthened to stand up for racial justice and equality.

FRIDAY 22 MARCH (WORLD WATER DAY) Oh Lord, giver of all. We pray for fresh, clean water for all people around the world. Guide us to use your water wisely and well, ensuring that all your creation can share in your provision.

SATURDAY 23 MARCH We pray Lord for the work and mission of the Anglican Church of Korea. We pray too for the Graduate School of Theology at Sungkonghoe – may they continue to nurture and teach theology for all those seeking to learn.



24-30 MARCH

HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

REFLECTIONS

The Revd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Theologian and Director of Global Mission, USPG

Holy Week is, for many, a time of spiritual pilgrimage. It is an opportunity to follow Jesus on His journey towards the Cross, from which flows possibilities for the fullness and wholeness of all life.

At the heart of Holy Week is the theme of solidarity. Jesus's solidarity is a YES to self-identification with all those pushed to the margins of society by the powerful, and a NO to the powers of the world.

The NO to the powers of the world comes out clearly on Maundy Thursday, where according to John, Jesus knowing fully well that God "had given all things into His hands" takes the form of a slave and washes His disciples' feet. Jesus replaces the love of power with the power of love – teaching the powerful a lesson in giving up power.

The YES to Jesus's self-identification with the marginalised comes on Good Friday in the way Jesus suffers "outside the city gate" (Hebrews 13:12) in solidarity with the many outcasts, who have been made scapegoats of unjust systems.

It is in this solidarity – resisting the patterns and powers of this world, and embracing the broken and the broken hearted into His own bruised body – that Jesus the crucified Christ opens up possibilities for healing and hope.

During Holy Week, as we focus on the Cross, we are reminded that our resources for hope are often found in places where we least expect it – even on the Cross.

SUNDAY 24 MARCH (THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE EASTER, PALM SUNDAY)

Christ in our darkness risen,
help all who long for light
to hold the hand of promise
till faith receives its light.
(Brian Wren, b. 1936)



PRAYERS

MONDAY 25 MARCH (THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY)

Today we pray for the strength to follow the calling of the Lord. May we embrace unexpected events and trust in God.

TUESDAY 26 MARCH O Lord, we pray for all those actively pursuing the vision of a different world marked by justice, peace and joy for all.

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH Father God, we pray for peacemakers who work tirelessly and at great risk in places where others have withdrawn or dare not venture.

THURSDAY 28 MARCH (MAUNDY THURSDAY) May we be humble in our attitude to each other and truly love one another.

FRIDAY 29 MARCH (GOOD FRIDAY) Let us dwell with our Lord in the darkness of Good Friday, longing for Easter to arrive.

SATURDAY 30 MARCH Lord, may we be active members of the community and welcome the stranger into our churches.



REFLECTIONS

31 MARCH–6 APRIL EASTER DAY REFLECTION

The Revd Dr Carlton John Turner, USPG Trustee

Read Luke 24:36–48

This is Easter Sunday, and for our reflection, we have Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances to His disciples. The word ‘appearance’ is important here. Earlier in the famous ‘Road to Emmaus’ walk, Jesus is unveiled or revealed as risen and alive. The language is vivid – “Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, and He vanished from their sight” (Luke 24:31). He then appears to His disciples, not as a spirit being, but an embodied risen Lord, showing them His physical body and eating with them.

Appearance can be understood in several ways. Firstly, those witnessing Jesus have their eyes opened. They got to see Jesus. However, deeper than seeing Jesus, they came to a deeper understanding of Jesus, as well as themselves. They had a radical shift in their experience – Jesus was not dead, but alive and present.

Secondly, it matters that Jesus was physically present. Luke goes to every length to demonstrate that Jesus was not a ghost. The resurrection of Jesus was about material change and transformation. He could be touched, held, embraced and eaten with.

This brings us to perhaps the deepest truth of all about Easter. The resurrection of Jesus is ultimately about concrete change and transformation in the world. Ministry and mission cannot simply be about conversation, but concrete action. Secondly, much of the change begins with our own perceptions. We have to change how we see the world, how we read the scriptures, and how we allow ourselves to recognise Jesus already in our midst.

SUNDAY 31 MARCH (EASTER SUNDAY)

“Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” Luke 24:39



PRAYERS

MONDAY 1 APRIL Lord, we pray for the continued renewal of the Church and all Christian communities.

TUESDAY 2 APRIL Today let us pray for projects aimed at concrete change and transformation in our world.

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL We pray for a continued willingness to see Jesus afresh in our individual and corporate lives.

THURSDAY 4 APRIL Heavenly Father, we pray specifically for the work of the USPG in its many projects around the globe.

FRIDAY 5 APRIL We pray today for Carlton and all the USPG Trustees. May they continue to guide and lead USPG with wisdom and grace.

SATURDAY 6 APRIL Lord, we pray for You to reveal Yourself to us. May we be inspired to create change where it is needed and take action where there is Your work to be done. Amen.



**PROGRAMME
UPDATE**

7-13 APRIL

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME IN THE WEST INDIES

**The Rt Revd Michael B St J Maxwell, Bishop of the
Diocese of Barbados**

The Certificate in Youth Leadership Programme is geared towards equipping youth leaders, and those exploring the call to work with and among youth, with the competencies for youth leadership within the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

The course offers modules in the fundamentals of faith and spiritual development; personal and interpersonal development; introduction and approaches to youth ministry; liturgy and creative arts in worship; introduction to Christian Education; and introduction to counselling. The participants in this course will benefit by having their knowledge and skills upgraded, and their confidence and capacity enriched to enable them to function more effectively in their roles as youth leaders.

They will also be able to assist the dioceses in the Province to improve the programming for young people and assist local parishes with their youth ministry. The lecturers for the modules will be Caribbean-based academics and experts in the various fields, and will share their knowledge and invite participants to deeply reflect on their known culture and context within their West Indian islands. Arising out of this course, the Province as a whole will benefit from having a bigger pool of high-quality youth leaders for engagement by parochial, diocesan, and provincial structures in shaping and articulating the Province's priorities, and subsequently developing targeted initiatives in pursuit of these agreed objectives.

**SUNDAY 7 APRIL (FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER,
WORLD HEALTH DAY)**

Almighty Lord,
as Jesus laid down His life for us,
may we devote our lives to You.
Let us rejoice in the promise of a new life.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 8 APRIL As yesterday was World Health Day, let us pray for healthcare workers, nurses and doctors. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they say and do.

TUESDAY 9 APRIL Lord, we pray for efficiency in promoting and presenting the modules of the certificate program to effectively equip and prepare participants for the exercise of youth ministry and leadership within their parishes and dioceses.

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL Thank You, God, for the faithful response of youth ministers to be sufficiently trained and equipped to lead creative and proficient youth ministries throughout the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

THURSDAY 11 APRIL Lord, we pray for zeal, care and attention to be offered by trained youth leaders in the faith, and spiritual development of Caribbean youth and their acquisition of life-skills.

FRIDAY 12 APRIL Father God, may there be an increase in the number of youth being ministered to by the Church through intentional discipleship and being led to a committed life in Christ.

SATURDAY 13 APRIL Let us pray today for the work and ministry of the Diocese of Barbados and The Anglican Province of the West Indies.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

14-20 APRIL

THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Revd Kate Komepwaisiho, Trustee of the Melanesian Mission

The effect of Climate Change has sadly affected many parts of the world, causing melting ice caps, higher temperatures, irregular rainfalls, rising sea levels, droughts and wildfires, damaged corals, stronger storms etc. Likewise, some of the climate-related hazards in the Solomon Islands include severe shoreline erosion and increased flooding frequency, higher temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, increasing sea surface temperatures and sea level rise.

During my childhood back in the 1990s, I would hear stories from my parents, uncles and aunties on how they harvested root crops like taro, sweet potatoes, yam and vegetables on the island. Sadly in my lifetime, I haven't seen any of that. Today, villagers would travel across to the mainland for food and to fetch water for drinking and cooking.

People on the island live a very simple life. The main means of transportation is dugout canoes. It's the only way to travel to the mainland for gardening, school, church services, fetching water for drinking and cooking, visiting neighbouring villages and of course fishing.

The beauty of village life is the richness of community – looking out for each other and sharing with one another. However, there is also an increase in population yet a lack of land among our people. In my village, relatives really need to take extra care and urgent actions about their usage of resources on the mainland because climate change has indeed affected their environment and the way they live.

It is my prayer that we continue to use wisely the resources and the beautiful environment our heavenly Father has entrusted unto us, so that our children, grandchildren and future generations will continue to enjoy.

SUNDAY 14 APRIL (SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER)

Knowing God,
May we trust in Your wisdom,
And follow the path You have set us on.
Let us be faithful disciples,
spreading the Word.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 15 APRIL Father God, pour your spirit of wisdom and help us to be good stewards of your creation and the resources you have bestowed upon us.

TUESDAY 16 APRIL Heavenly Father, we thank you for the beauty of your creation and for all the blessings in our lives.

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL Let us give thanks for religious communities, and the people who devote their lives to worship. May they have strength and peace in all they do.

THURSDAY 18 APRIL Lord God, we pray for the people of the Solomon Islands. May they continue to serve together as a community, caring for each other and their environment.

FRIDAY 19 APRIL Let us give thanks for the wonderful array of languages, cultures and people that make up God's world. May we strive for dialogue and development, embrace difference and love each other

SATURDAY 20 APRIL Lord of justice and righteousness, grant your wisdom upon the leaders of all nations. That they may make urgent decisions about climate - peacefully, wisely, and rightly.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

28 APRIL-4 MAY

THE SACRED CIRCLE

On the banks of Lake Couchiching in Ontario, Canada, the Sacred Circle gathered last year. Amongst the number were local partners of the Anglican Church of Canada; The Most Revd Martinez Bassotto, Primate of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil; and The Most Revd Don Tamihere (Pihopa o Aotearoa) of the Māori strand of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. All had come to the four-day event to learn, share and partner with the Indigenous community of Canada.

Around the Sacred Circle, many shared some of the challenges they faced. For centuries, European colonial exploits have been branded as conquests, and their legacies ignore the emotional and spiritual dislocation caused to local people who first occupied and stewarded the land. Tragically, the resulting generational trauma is reflected through high rates of depression, low access to opportunity and, worst of all, suicide rates amongst First Nations communities that total twice the Canadian average. Whilst formal apologies from church leaders regarding the historic abuse and neglect of Indigenous peoples have been welcomed, conversations – be they around a fire or a table – are productive spaces of partnership and learning.

The Anglican Church of Canada has demonstrated a clear commitment to ensure that the voices, histories and perspectives of Indigenous communities are heard and respected within the Church. From this flows the engagement of Indigenous elders and theologians in decolonising the church's theology, liturgy, music, artwork and governance structures. For the Sacred Circle, all land, waters and people are seen as relatives, who all owe their existence to the Creator God of the Bible. As a result, in the place of dominance, there is stewardship. Instead of consumption, preservation.

It is essential to partner with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, our "relatives", and walk, listen and witness to the same unifying Gospel. Just like Archbishop Linda Nicholls of the Anglican Church of Canada, may we say of the Sacred Circle: "The rest of the Church needs you".

This has been adapted from the Autumn edition of Revive magazine

SUNDAY 28 APRIL (THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER)

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40



PRAYERS

MONDAY 29 APRIL We pray for the important and peaceful work of the Sacred Circle and for all who are taking part.

TUESDAY 30 APRIL Let us pray for Indigenous communities throughout the world, for the atrocities they have faced and the displacement and pain they have suffered. Forgive us O Lord.

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY (SAINT PHILIP AND SAINT JAMES) Let us give thanks for the life and works of the apostles Philip and James.

THURSDAY 2 MAY We pray today for the Anglican Church of Canada, especially for its commitment to face the wrongs of the past, apologise and work in reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

FRIDAY 3 MAY (WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY) We pray for journalists and all who work in the media. May we work to protect press freedom across the world.

SATURDAY 4 MAY Lord, let us be truthful to ourselves and to others. May we embrace each other for our authentic selves.



REFLECTIONS

5-11 MAY

THY KINGDOM COME

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come', we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."
The Most Revd Justin Welby

Ascension Day marks the first day of Thy Kingdom Come – an annual invitation to prayer called by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions – so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Running until Pentecost, every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. It is the hope and prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. For those who know God already, it is an opportunity for us to explore our calling into a deep relationship with our Father in heaven. We are called into a meaningful community, a universal fellowship.

This week is Ascension Day, reminding us of Jesus' ascension into heaven. Having completed His Father's mission on earth, Jesus was taken up to be reunited with His Father, to sit at His Father's right hand, far above all earthly rule and authority. Today, like the disciples in the Acts 1, we can wait and pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us to be Jesus' witnesses to our family, our friends and in our church community. May each of us be willing to ask God how we can share the love of our Father in Heaven with the people we know.

Find out more www.thykingdomcome.global

SUNDAY 5 MAY (FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, INTERNATIONAL MIDWIVES DAY)

Almighty God,
Your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of Your Kingdom:
inspire us with Your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of Your love,
that all who hear Your Word
may be drawn to You,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MONDAY 6 MAY As yesterday was International Midwives Day, let us pray for midwives, who do so much to ensure the safe arrival of new life into the world.

TUESDAY 7 MAY Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY We pray for Thy Kingdom Come – thanking you Lord for its reach across the world and for all who will be taking part in it this year.

THURSDAY 9 MAY (ASCENSION DAY) Holy Father, as You raised Your Son to heaven, may we embrace the knowledge that He will remain with us evermore.

FRIDAY 10 MAY Father God, we pray in hope for all people who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world. May they hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

SATURDAY 11 MAY Help us Lord, to be witnesses of Your love to our family, our friends and communities. May each of us be willing to ask You how we can share the love of our Father in Heaven with the people we know.



PRAYERS



PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Triangle of Hope is a covenantal community across three continents: Africa, North America and Europe. It brings together Anglicans dedicated to transforming the legacy and ongoing presence of slavery and racism in God's world through repentance, reconciliation and mission.

The Triangle refers specifically to a partnership between three dioceses: Kumasi (Ghana), Virginia (USA) and Liverpool (England). Each diocese was directly involved in the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans. Together we remember and acknowledge with sorrow that human beings, each created in the likeness of the Lord God, were captured into slavery for financial gain with no regard for their dignity, identity and humanity. We view this history and its legacy with great pain and penitence before God, the God who wills in Christ to bring freedom and justice for all.

One of the projects of The Triangle of Hope is Tsedaqah House in the precincts of Liverpool Cathedral. This is home to young adults from around the Triangle and other places where the legacy of slavery, racism and discrimination is also felt. Residents pray and worship together and serve in a variety of settings around the diocese, promoting understanding, awareness and the common good. They are supported by five trustees, a chaplain and four mentors.

Members of the community have written and chosen our prayers this week.



12-18 MAY TRIANGLE OF HOPE

SUNDAY 12 MAY (THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY/INTERNATIONAL MOTHER'S DAY)

Circle us, O loving Father, with Your hope that we may do justice;

Circle us, O Christ our Saviour, with Your hope that we may love mercy;

Circle us, O Holy Spirit, with Your hope that we may walk humbly with You. Amen.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 13 MAY We pray for all those caught up in injustice. We pray that they may know Your compassion and Your love. Grant them dignity and strength. Give us the wisdom and courage to recognise injustice in all its forms and help us to be quick to challenge.

TUESDAY 14 MAY O Lord, we are all created in Your image, yet some treat others and You with contempt by considering themselves superior. Let us not rush to the language of healing before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound of racism. Help us not to value one life more than other lives.

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY (MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE, MARY SEACOLE) Lord God, Prince of Peace, we humble ourselves in Your presence. Help us to love mercy and act in ways that are just. Imprint Your character on our hearts so that we may love as You do. Lord fill us with Your Spirit.

THURSDAY 16 MAY (INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES) Lord of justice and righteousness, please bring hope to the broken-hearted, and give us grace to administer justice where there is injustice; strengthen us to speak truth to power and resist the oppressor. May we find unity at the foot of Your Cross. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

FRIDAY 17 MAY Lord God, by your righteousness, show us our own complicity in injustice. Convict us of our indifference. Give us strength and courage to break our silence against abuse and injustice of all kinds around us.

SATURDAY 18 MAY We pray especially for those caught up in racial injustice as part of the legacy of the dehumanising trade of enslaved Africans. Circle us with Your forgiveness, righteousness and hope that we may do justice, seek mercy and walk humbly with You.



REFLECTIONS

19-25 MAY PENTECOST REFLECTION

The Rev'd Duncan Dormor, USPG General Secretary

'In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power'.

Pentecost: the day the church was born - through the pouring out of the Spirit - carrying the Gospel message from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. A defining moment in which we witness the chaotic joy of new birth; the breaking waters of the Spirit of God dramatically issuing forth new life. And just as that first cry of the newborn infant is universally understood – so too, for those gathered – there is a clear understanding that a radical community is being created. And miraculously, everyone understands.

Those present hear the divine, life-giving message. But not because they suddenly grasp the languages of power or privilege – the Latin of Imperial Rome; the Greek of high culture and philosophy or the Hebrew or the religious elite - but rather because the Spirit speaks in their own tongue.

The Spirit speaks into the hearts of all in the language of childhood, with the same tongue whispered or sung by their mothers; with all the distinctiveness and colour, poetry and rhythm and cadence and timbre, and all the associations that come with it: The language of the heart.

'In our own languages, we hear.' This simple, powerful, Pentecostal reality still has the potential to transform and challenge an Anglican Communion still dominated by that other imperial language – English. So that the spiritual gifts born of diverse languages and cultures may be released to inspire us all within a truly global Church.

SUNDAY 19 MAY (PENTECOST)

Almighty Lord,
May we be filled by the Holy Spirit,
And spread your Good News across the nations.
Let us celebrate the diversity of humankind,
Using language as a gift not a barrier.
Amen.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 20 MAY We pray that the spiritual gifts born of diverse languages and cultures may be released to inspire us all within a truly global Church.

TUESDAY 21 MAY Lord we pray for the Global Church and for the Anglican Communion – may we move forward in peace and unity.

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY (INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY) Let us give thanks to the great diversity of species that inhabit our planet. Bless our efforts to preserve God's creation

THURSDAY 23 MAY We pray for the confidence to be radical in our approach to creating our Church and our communities. May we move forward fearlessly to do God's work.

FRIDAY 24 MAY Lord God, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always.

SATURDAY 25 MAY So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 1 Corinthians 14:15



PROGRAMME UPDATE

26 MAY–1 JUNE

RENEWAL AND RECONCILIATION

Rachael Anderson,
Senior Communications & Engagement Manager, USPG

“If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:6–7

Last year, USPG and The Codrington Trust announced Renewal and Reconciliation: The Codrington Reparations Project. Our commitment to this 10–15-year project is the result of USPG’s continuous work to seek to engage critically with and take reparative action in response to its shameful links to slavery through its ownership of The Codrington Estates in Barbados.

In 1710, The Society of the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG – USPG’s former name) received a bequest from Sir Christopher Codrington for two estates in Barbados. The estates totalled 700 acres and included a population of enslaved African men, women and children. From then until 1838, SPG owned and ran the estates through local managers.

Though USPG has long been engaging critically with its past including a substantial amount of research into Codrington, we are aware that it is not enough to just offer an unreserved apology. It must be more than mere thoughts and words. As an organisation that is committed to championing justice, we seek to honour the command in 1 John 1:6–7 and now move towards honest reparative action.

The project will include four areas of work in collaboration with the descendants of the enslaved: community development and engagement; historical research and education; burial places and memorialisation; and family research.

Renewal and Reconciliation: The Codrington Reparations Project will begin this spring 2024.

SUNDAY 26 MAY (TRINITY SUNDAY)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity, we beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.



PRAYERS

MONDAY 27 MAY Lord, we pray for The Codrington Trust, USPG and the Province of the West Indies as they approach this project of renewal and reconciliation. Give wisdom and grace to all who are involved as they carry forth your work.

TUESDAY 28 MAY Heavenly Father, we pray for the countries of the Caribbean and their peoples. May they stand strong under the weight of their colonial history and find freedom to grow their identity and prosper.

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY Let us pray for the work of USPG as it seeks to come to terms with its colonial past. May it learn to sit with discomfort and may its partners grow in confidence.

THURSDAY 30 MAY Lord, thank You that You made all things, and in You, all things hold together. Through Your blood, You have brought reconciliation between mankind and God, and You have given us the same ministry of reconciliation. May we work for the peace and restoration of relationships that have become difficult.

FRIDAY 31 MAY (VISIT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH) O Lord, let us remember that through You, anything is possible. Bless our sisters and brothers in their Kingdom work.

SATURDAY 1 JUNE (GLOBAL DAY OF PARENTS) We pray for all parents and those who parent across the world. May they be given any support they need to raise their children in a healthy and happy environment.

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PRAYER DIARY

Thank you for praying with the World Church.

If you don't already receive the USPG prayer diary, we'd love for you to join with us in prayer.

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Keeping in touch

USPG would like very much to keep you updated on our work and that of our partner churches and communities worldwide. Managing your details well is important to us and we would like to contact you in ways that work for you.

[] **Yes**, I am happy to be contacted by email.

We may contact you by post and telephone. If you do not wish to hear from us or have a preferred contact method, simply get in touch with us at info@uspg.org.uk

When you give us your details, you'll be added to our secure database so we can communicate with you as you have indicated. You can read our full data privacy notice at www.uspg.org.uk/privacy

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