

Prayers of Intercession and Petition

God our Creator, you made us in your image, and you call us from wherever we are in time and place to be your disciples. Through your Holy Spirit, we are empowered to bring the Gospel to all your people by your grace. Please hear our prayers now through your mercy and grace.

God of Generations, we celebrate the lives of the women who fought the good fight and stood up for the Gospel and the truth of Scripture, yesterday and today. Strengthen our voice of prophetic proclamation and action, especially amidst the horror and pain of gender-based violence, femicide, poverty, prejudice, xenophobia and Afrophobia, corruption and violence.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Compassion, we pray for women and girls who experience abuse, violence, inequality and fear. Bring healing to survivors and justice where there is wrongdoing. Transform the hearts of our people and our communities. Teach us to become communities of dignity, compassion and peace.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Life, we give thanks for the bold women among us today who serve with a sense of holy purpose in their vocations as businesspeople, professionals, educators, workers, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, partners, sisters, aunts, godmothers and mentors. Empower us by faith and bless our vocations at home, work, leisure and in the church. Inspire us to encourage one another in fellowship, laughter, hospitality and sharing.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for the men throughout the ages who support and encourage women in their quest to use their God-given gifts for your purpose. Give us courage to work together as equals to proclaim your grace and hope.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God our Greatest Friend, surround us with your love and affirmation through the kindness of others, be they friend or stranger, young or old. Give us eyes to see the love you lavish on all your people. Make us bold to speak your truth and act on behalf of your kingdom with courage and strength of purpose.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Understanding, give us courage to stand up for the abused, the needy, the sick, the poor, the foreigner and the stranger. We pray for those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, that you might bring healing and comfort. Inspire us to be your hands to provide for those in need as we are able.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, our Help through the Ages, we thank you for the gifts of wisdom and insight brought to us through the lives of those who have gone before us, especially those who have said “yes to the call.” Inspire us by their witness as we continue their legacy of faith.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God of the Universe, throughout history you have given us the courage to form and re-form your church against all odds and into pathways yet unknown.

We pray for Central Methodist Mission and the Table Bay Circuit, all her ministers, leaders and people. May this Circuit be a place where people discover their gifts, grow in faith and answer Your call.

Guide our ways that we may grow in faith and hope. Make us your bold and faithful servants, this day and forevermore through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction

May the God who called Deborah to lead,
who honoured the courage of Vashti,
who strengthened Esther to act,
who called Mary to bear Christ,
who entrusted Mary Magdalene with the first proclamation of the resurrection,
and who continues to call women and men into ministry,
bless you and keep you.

May Christ walk beside you.

May the Holy Spirit empower you to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Parent, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Commissioning

Go into the world as people who courageously speak truth.

Go as disciples who refuse injustice.

Go as servants who proclaim hope.

Go as women and men who joyfully answer God's call.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

2026 08 09 Women's Day

Liturgy and Prayers provided by Bishop Yvette Moses.