

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
MARCH 5, 2021
1:00 P.M.
HOSTED BY
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Pam McKinsey

Welcome

Pastor Blake Shipman

About Vanuatu

About The Artwork

Stories of Three Ni-Vanuatu

Prayer For The Ni-Vanuatu

Lighting Of The Candles

“It Is Time To Get Together”

*It is time to get together as a nation and family.
Let's forget our differences and let us work in unity.*

*Let us build up Vanuatu with love and unity,
We are family, we are one, We are Ni Vanuatu.*

*From the North down to the South all the islands we are one.
In God we stand, brothers and sisters we are strong.*

*Let us build up Vanuatu with love and unity,
We are family, we are one, We are Ni Vanuatu.*

Invocation from Matthew 28:19

We welcome you in the name of the Father and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

We begin our service with a Vanuatu hymn, “Greetings to You”.

*Greetings to you, greetings to you, greetings to you everyone.
God will bless us in our worship, He will guide us, He will bless us.
We are here in His presence, we are one in God's love,
Greetings to you, greetings to you, greetings to you everyone.*

Call To Worship from Psalm 127

Unless the **LORD** builds the house, those who build it *labor in vain*. Unless the **LORD** guards the city, the guard keeps *watch in vain*.” Happy is *everyone* who trusts the *house builder*, **GOD**.

Amen

Hymn Of Praise from Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the Lord, Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great god, And a great king above all gods.
In his hands are the caverns of the earth; and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it. And his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, And kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God, And we are the sheep of his hand.
Oh that today you would harken to his voice.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

As we continue to pray, let us be thankful for the great things God has done.

Holy God, creator of the heavens and the earth, loving God, on whom Vanuatu stands, we adore you. Thank you for the fellowship we enjoy with our sisters and brothers around the world, gathered for this World Day of Prayer. Thank you for the fertile lands, fresh air, blue seas and still waters of Vanuatu's islands. Thank you for the melody of birds, the sound of animals and the mystery of fish in the sea and rivers. Thank you for the waterfalls that serenely declare to us your greatness and power. Thank you for the sound of children laughing, and for the prayers and songs of the old and young, all of which manifest the joy of your love. Praises, glory and honor to you alone forever.

Amen.

Prayer Of Confession

Now let us confess to our faithful and just God, asking Him to forgive us.

We stand before you to confess our sins. We confess that we have listened to your word, but have not acted on it. We do the things we should not do, and leave undone the things we should do. We face adversities and challenges in our homes and nations, and we try to build our houses on the words of Jesus. But we discover, too often, that we have built on the sand. We want to be changed. Restore us, so we may do what is right and just. Creator God, we confess that we have polluted the environment, and harmed the sea creatures by throwing garbage into their habitats. We have endangered the marine life and ruined sustainable livelihoods. We regret, confess, and promise to fulfill the mandate to be good stewards of your creation.

Amen.

Our Prayer Of Commitment comes from Isaiah Chapter 66, Verse 1

This is what the Lord says, "Heaven is my throne and Earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"

Let us pray.

Amazing God, grant us your wisdom and knowledge to discern the truth that You are not limited by the temples made by man. As Creator of all things, the whole universe is Your dwelling place. So, we realize that you are not looking for a house made of stone, but that You want to live in those who are contrite in spirit, and tender of heart. Help us to live in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to you. Humbly, we offer ourselves to be a house where you can dwell. By the power of your word, transform our lives and our nations, so that in each of us is a household of justice and peace. Gracious God, accept our commitment.

Amen.

Listening To The Word Of God

And now, we offer words of assurance in our next hymn.

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY

*A pilgrim was I and awand'ring,
In the cold night of sin I did roam,
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me,
And now I am on my way home.*

*When I walk thru that dark, lonesome valley,
My Savior will walk with me there .
And safely His great hand will lead me,
To the mansions He's gone to prepare.*

*He restoreth my soul when I'm weary,
He giveth me strength day by day.
He leads me beside the still waters,
He guards me each step of the way.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
All the days, all the days of my life.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
All the days, all the days of my life.*

Now please join us in our Prayer of Intercession by responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Everlasting God, the God on whom Vanuatu stands, we ask you to help us stand for peace in our nations and in our families. We commit the leaders and people of Vanuatu into your wise hands.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We stand against the forces of injustice present in our nations. We pray we can live in unity, love, and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity, in Vanuatu, and so many other places around the world. Bind us together in love, peace, and joy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember the people living in places prone to natural disasters and the hazards of cyclones, hurricanes and volcanoes. Almighty God, protect the communities from disasters and suffering. Heal the souls of the people and help them feel your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We now go out with our closing hymn “Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

LORD, DISMISS US WITH US WITH THY BLESSING

<i>Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing,</i>	<i>Thanks we give and adoration,</i>	<i>Savior, when Your love shall call us,</i>
<i>Fill our hearts with joy and peace. For the Gospel’s joyful sound.</i>		<i>From our struggling pilgrim way,</i>
<i>Let us each Thy love possessing,</i>	<i>May the fruits of Thy salvation,</i>	<i>Let no fear of death appal us,</i>
<i>Triumph in redeeming grace.</i>	<i>In our hearts and lives abound.</i>	<i>Glad Your summons to obey.</i>
<i>O refresh us, O refresh us,</i>	<i>Ever faithful, ever faithful,</i>	<i>May we ever, may we ever,</i>
<i>Trav’ling through the wilderness.</i>	<i>To the truth may we be found.</i>	<i>Reign with You in endless day.</i>
<i>Trav’ling through the wilderness.</i>	<i>To the truth may we be found.</i>	<i>Reign with you in endless day.</i>

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Pam McKinsey

Participants

**Myra Linton
Catiana McKay
Terri Jackman
Diane Beemster
Eli Renner
Deb Hyland
Carol Godwin
Helen Carroll**

**First Presbyterian Church
Galena United Methodist Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Lord of Love Lutheran Church
St. Mary Catholic Church
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
St. Michael Catholic Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church**