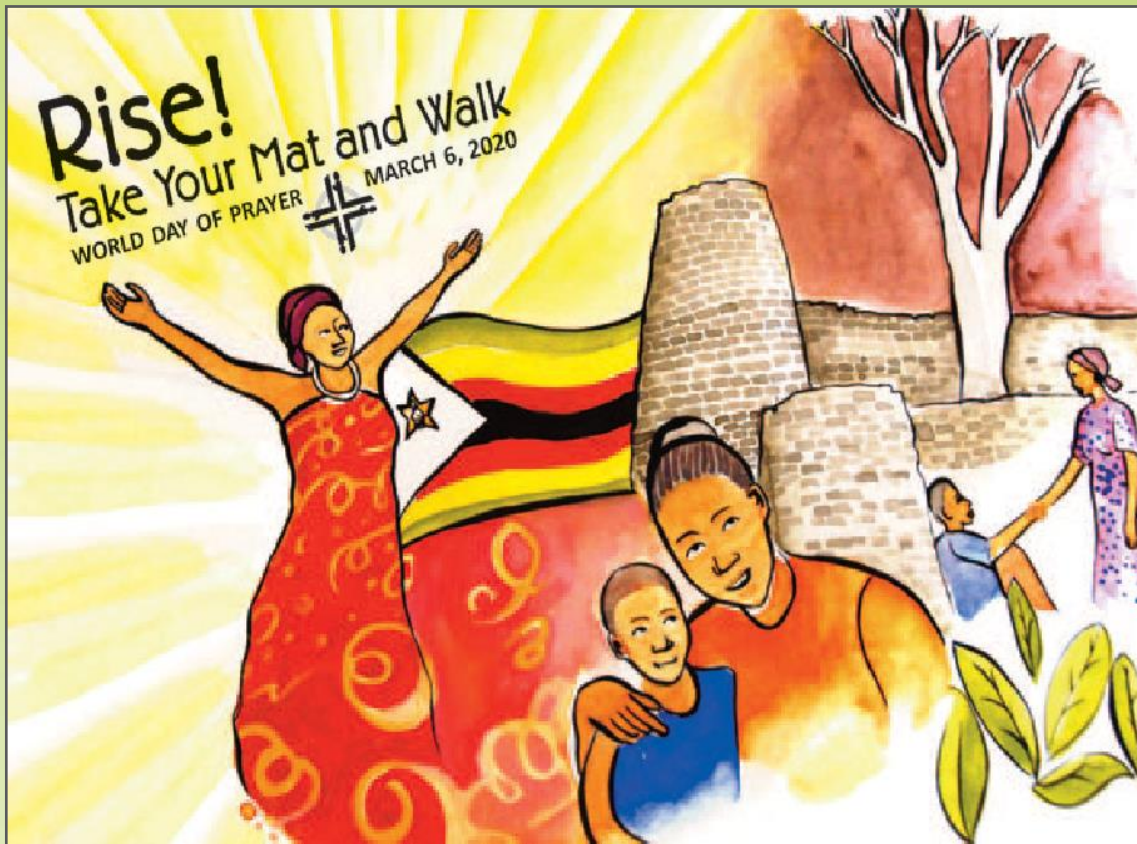


World Day of Prayer 2020



Order of Worship





Processional

Song

“*Jesu I dwala*” (“Jesus Is the Rock”)

Welcome and Greeting Song

“Jesus We Are Here” (“*Jesu tawa pano*”)

Prayer of Praise

Leader 1: God of peace and freedom, we welcome you in our midst.

Leader 2: We praise you for your love, which surpasses all understanding. **Leader 3:** We praise you for who you are, now and forever.

All: **You are an amazing God.**

Leader 1: Creator God, we praise you for the natural resources we are called to care for, like the vegetation, minerals, big animals, waterfalls, and forests of Zimbabwe.

All: **You are a gracious God.**

Leader 2: Jesus, we praise you for the gift of respect, the dignity of human life, love for one another, and for the friendliness of Zimbabwe’s hardworking people.

All: **You are the Bread of life.**

Leader 3: Holy Spirit, we praise you for enabling us to gather in worship in Zimbabwe and around the world.

All: **You are the Spirit of truth who unifies us in prayers and action.**

Song

“Holy, Holy”

Prayer of Confession

Leader 2: Merciful God, we come before you as a nation, recognizing that we need a change.

Leader 3: We have sinned against you and our sisters and brothers through our negligent words and actions.

Leader 1: We have disobeyed you and done things that we should not have done.

All: **We confess our wrongdoings and ask you for courage to change.
With your forgiveness, in your grace, hear our prayer.**

Leader 2: We see women and children suffering in poverty, hunger, and violence.

All: **Grant us compassion to help those who are suffering.**

Leader 1: There is a lack of integrity in our lives. We fail to love and to unite those who are divided for reasons of ethnicity, language, or political views.

All: **Forgive us and heal our hearts and minds.** **Leader 3:** Jesus asks : “Do you want to be made well?”

All: **We use so many excuses to avoid changes. Have mercy on us and sustain our searching for healing and forgiveness. In your grace, listen to us.**

Leader 2: Let us take a moment for personal silent prayers of confession.
Brief moment of silence

Leader 2: “Give thanks for God is good, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times” (Ps. 106:1, 3).

Song

“Zadzisai Chirevo” (“Fulfill Your Promise”)

A Letter from Zimbabwe Song

“*Uyai mweya wakachena*” (“Come Now, O Holy Spirit”)



Bible Reading/Skit

John 5:2–9a

Meditation

Reflect on the following questions with the person next to you:

1. What is the context in which you or your community lives that needs to hear Jesus' life-changing question, "Do you want to be made well?"
2. What are the obstacles or excuses that are not allowing for transformation?
3. What does "Rise! Take your mat and walk" mean in your context?

Write down your commitments to support your communities with actions of love, peace, and reconciliation. The cards will be collected during the offering.

Song

"Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk"

Words of Commitment

Leader 2: Let us experience the empowering energy of the dialogue between the sick man and Jesus. I invite you to bow your heads.

Leader 1: Jesus asks: "Do you want to be made well?"

All: Yes! Yes!

Leader 2: Then Jesus says: "Rise! Take your mat and walk!" (Stand and take a few steps in place.)

Girl 1 (wearing red): God is love. Let us remain standing with our hearts full of love!

Girl 2 (wearing white): Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Let us take up our mats for peace among us! (All hold their cards/fabric with the written commitments.)

Girl 3 (wearing yellow): God made all things new. In Christ we are reconciled to God. Let us walk toward reconciliation! Let us walk toward a new life—a life of reconciliation.

All: Amen! Halleluiah!

Leader 3: As you have heard Jesus' life-changing question and are willing to "Rise! Take your mat and walk," we invite you to offer your commitments and donations to support the communities as actions of love, peace, and reconciliation.

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Reader 1: Let us join together with the provinces of Zimbabwe and world-wide to give thanks to God. Let us rise and walk in Jesus' unconditional love.

All: From our corner of the world, we rise and walk.

Reader 2: Please continue to bless us with the gift of life and protection, good rains and fertile soil.

All: We are caretakers of God's creation.

Reader 3: We lament for our brothers and sisters who had to migrate to other countries. We ask you to protect them and give them good health.

All: Help us learn to love one another.

Reader 4: We intercede for communities and women who live in fear of violence in families and nations.

All: Give us wisdom and grace to be peacemakers.



Reader 5: We thank you for the courageous and hardworking pioneer women of World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe who taught their communities to pray, love, and forgive.

All: **May we carry on the legacy of courageous women in our communities.** **Reader 6:** Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

Benediction Closing Song