



# World Day of Prayer

WORSHIP SERVICE 2023  
Women of Taiwan (Shortened Version)

*“I have heard  
about your faith.”*

## **Welcome and Greetings**

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>Leader 1</b> | “Ping-an” (pronounced peng-an) This phrase in Taiwanese means ‘May God grant you peace, a peaceful relationship with God and with one another’.   |
| <b>Leader 2</b> | Welcome! On behalf of the sisters in Taiwan, we would like to welcome all of you to join us today in worship.   |
| <b>Leader 1</b> | Dear sisters and brothers, throughout this celebration we will share some experiences of and prayers for women in Taiwan. We will also witness to God’s wonderful grace and mighty works. |

## Opening Song

### *Praise my soul the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like you his praise should sing?  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to blame and swift to bless;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
All our hopes and fears he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
praise him all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)



## Call to Worship

**Leader 1** Praise to the Lord. We thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon Taiwan.

**Leader 2** Praise God, the Creator, who created this beautiful island covered with mountain forests, nurtured by the ocean and rich in natural resources.

**All** **Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.**

**Leader 1** More than one hundred years ago missionaries went to Taiwan to spread the good news. Many heard the gospel, responded and received the grace of salvation.

**All** **Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.**

**Leader 2** Since the 16th century, Taiwan has been colonised by different foreign forces. The people have experienced ethnic, cultural, social and political conflict. By the grace of God, the islanders currently live in peace, but sadly, also live with the ever constant threat of further conflict.

**All** **Gracious God, we thank you and praise you. May your glory be with us.**

**Song** ***Open my eyes Lord, I want to see Jesus***

Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him  
Open our ears Lord  
And Help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus

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Leon Lumpkins

## Prayers of Confession

**Leader 1** Forgiving God, we confess our sins to you. We sin against you; we fail to take care of the land you entrusted to us and use it in unrighteous ways, causing pollution and the extinction of various species.

**All** **Oh Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Leader 2** Gracious God, we are often selfish and arrogant. We have overlooked human dignity and all too often ignore the needs of minorities, migrants and immigrants. We hear the cries of the land, women, children and young people, but we have not done enough to respond to the grace that we received. These actions have caused some people to suffer and be oppressed.

**All** **Oh Lord, have mercy on us.**

### *Assurance of Pardon*

**Leader 1** Oh God, you are faithful and righteous. May you forgive us, cleanse away our sins and help us live in the light. May you give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you and be filled with love and faith. May you reveal yourself to us so that we may know the immeasurable greatness of your power.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Word of God

**Reader 1** **Scripture Reading – Ephesians 1: 15-19**  
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

## Meditation

## Intercessory Prayers

- Leader 1** Merciful God, Taiwan is caught in a superpower struggle. It has been isolated internationally for decades. Though not officially recognised by the international community, Taiwan has tried its best to help the world in agriculture, technology, medicine and humanitarian assistance. Please bless and prosper the people of Taiwan.
- Leader 2** Oh Holy Spirit, please grant people in Taiwan the strength and wisdom to cope with an uncertain future. We trust you to help Taiwan to be a blessing in the world.
- Divine Consoler, you are the Lord of the world. We cling to you; we give ourselves and Taiwan to you, and ask you to watch over us all in our weakness. You are our fortress and place of safety.
- Leader 3** Creator God, we thank you for entrusting us with this amazing world, rich in natural resources. Our country abounds in natural riches, as does Taiwan. However, all too often, we ignore the cry of our earth as we face air and water pollution, the waste disposal crisis, the over-utilisation of land, habitat destruction and climate change.
- Leader 1** Wonderful God, you showed us the value of family when you placed your Son within a human family. We ask you to bless all those who have the responsibility of raising children and providing for their needs. May we draw our strength and example from you Lord Jesus Christ, as we parent our children, or guide and influence the young people in our lives.
- Leader 2** Holy Spirit, may your guiding influence prevail upon those in Taiwan who seek to discriminate against those working women who have no other way to support their families financially. Bless women who have to overcome great hardships in the workplace.
- Leader 3** Loving God, you created us in your own image and blessed us. You saw that it was good. We pray especially for women and girls in Taiwan and around the world who face many pressures and obstacles in this world.
- Leader 1** Holy Spirit, please give us wisdom to fight for the marginalised and the oppressed, the poor and the helpless. Give us courage to speak up for them.
- Leader 2** Caring God, to you all people are equal and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. We pray for all those – men, women, and children – who have suffered abuse in any form. Be with them as they try to rebuild their lives.
- Leader 3** O Lord, may you guide us toward the path of unity in Christ. Dear God, hear our prayers and keep our faith strong. Lord Jesus, grant us wisdom truly to know the meaning and the reality of your redemption. Holy Spirit open our hearts and fill us with your love, so that we can be a blessing to others.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

### *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

