



World Day of Prayer

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Vanuatu

March 5, 2021

“Build on a Strong Foundation”

Worship Service Video

A global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The Worship Service for March 5, 2021 was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Vanuatu Committee and will be celebrated locally in more than 140 countries.

You may follow the worship service with the program made available in your language by a WDP National Committee. To connect with the committee in your country, please visit <https://worlddayofprayer.net/national-committees.html>

Thank you for joining the Worship Service led by the WDP Vanuatu Committee and the World Day of Prayer International Committee, with the participation of several WDP Committees.

Song – “Greetings to you” - Musik: WGT Vanuatu ©WDPIC; dt. Text: Manuela Schnell. Used with permission.

WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME

Rosie Sam, WDP Vanuatu (Conch shell)

Angelina Warren, WDP Vanuatu: Welcome to the 2021 World Day of Prayer, prepared by the Christian women of the Republic of Vanuatu. We welcome our sisters and brothers around the world in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Florida Naio, WDP Vanuatu: Mostly Melanesian people, but also minorities from Polynesian origin, are the source of Vanuatu’s culture, languages, traditional values and spirituality. The black and white sandy beaches, coral reefs with colored fishes, lovely birds, fruits and nuts in the forest all make the islands a pristine environment, even though they are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes.

Jerelyn Vuti, WDP Vanuatu: Each island and village used to have their own chief and style of governance, their own gods, their own language and their thatched houses made from leaves and trees, using stone axes. Women and men would come together at the Farea (village meeting house) to discuss major issues.

Roslyn Celeb, WDP Vanuatu: Vanuatu is a small country located in the South Pacific Ocean, a Republic formed after independence in 1980 from a French and Britain Condominium government. Today, Vanuatu proudly waves its flag and its coat of arms for anyone to read “In God we stand.”

Song – “Greeting Song.” *Composed and sang by members of the WDP National Vanuatu Committee for the 2021 program. ©WDPIC. Used with permission.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Yvonne Baniuri (Drum)

Angelina Warren, WDP Vanuatu: Let's read together the words of worship as in the first verses of Psalm 127 (NRSV).

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.

Florida Naio, WDP Vanuatu: Happy is everyone who trusts the house-builder God. Let us be one of those! Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rosângela Oliveira, WDPIC executive director: Let us be thankful for the great things God has done.

Holy, Holy, Holy, God creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. God is present in the history of his people from yesterday to today. Loving God, on whom Vanuatu stands, we adore you.

Vino Schubert, WDPIC Asia: Thank you for the fellowship with each other and with sisters around the world gathered by World Day of Prayer.

Henriette Mbatchou, WDPIC Africa: Thank you for the great and wonderful things in our lives and in our nations. You grant us authority, wisdom, knowledge and understanding to care over all beautiful islands and countries.

Henrica Nio Marona, WDPIC Pacific: Thank you for the fertile lands, for the fresh air, clean environment, beautiful sunshine, blue seas and still waters of Vanuatu islands.

Vicky Marney, WDPIC Pacific: Thank you for the sweet melody of the birds, the sound of land animals, and the mystery of the fish in the sea and rivers. Thank you for the waterfalls that rain down their waters and serenely declare to us your greatness and power.

Nora Carmi, WDPIC Middle East: Thank you for the sound of children singing, laughing, shouting, and for the prayers and songs of the old and young. All of which manifest the joy of your love.

All: Praises, glory and honor be unto you alone forever. Life-Giving God, receive our praise.

Song - "It is time to get together." *Composed and sang by members of the WDP National Vanuatu Committee for the 2021 program. ©WDPIC. Used with permission.*

Prayer of Confession

Senka Šestak Peterlin, WDPIC Europe: Let's confess to God, who is faithful and just to forgive us (I John 1:9).

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, we stand before your house of grace to confess our sins. We confess that we have listened to your word but have not acted on them. Often, we do the things we ought not to do and leave undone the things we ought to do.

Emmanuelle Bauer, WDPIC Europe: We face adversities and challenges in our homes and nations. We try to build our homes, thinking we are building on the words of Jesus Christ, but we

actually have built on the sand. We want to be changed, restore us back to do what is right and just.

Susan Jackson-Dowd, WDPIC treasurer: Creator God, we confess that we have polluted the environment and harmed the sea creatures by throwing garbage into their habitats. We endanger the marine life and ruin sustainable livelihoods. We know we can change it. We confess, regret and commit to fulfill the mandate to be good stewards of your creation.

All: God, hear our prayers.

Prayer of Commitment

Ruth V. E. Phillips, WDPIC Caribbean/North America: God is looking for a house to live in. What is the house that you would build for me? (Isaiah 66:1-2, NRSV).

We come humbly before you and pray that you will grant us your Spirit of wisdom and knowledge. Teach us to discern the truth. Lead and guide us to live in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to you.

Rebeca Cascante, WDPIC Latin America: Humbly we offer ourselves to be a house that you can dwell in. By the power of your word, transform our lives and our nations. Make us like a household of justice and peace.

All: Gracious God, accept our commitment.

LISTENING TO THE VOICES FROM VANUATU

Rosie Sam, WDP Vanuatu: My name is Rhetoh. I am the second child from a family of eight. I left school at the end of year 6, as there was no money to continue my education. My family could only afford to educate my older brother and not me as I am the second born and a girl. One day I heard there was a sewing class for girls at a local center. I applied and was accepted, but my dad had no money to pay the fees. I was disheartened but I did not have my own money to finance my studies.

I sincerely desired to enhance my education but there was no opportunity in a formal school system. Then I turned my attention to the church to fill my desire to learn. I joined the youth group, attended bible studies, and later on got involved with the women's ministry. With this determination and faith in God, I found ways to educate myself and even acquired skills to earn a living to provide for my family.

I now make items and sell them at the Mamas Markets where other women like me, with little education, can earn a living with this new skill.

I care for my family that God blessed me with. My husband and I have three children. I praise God for the blessings over my life. I thank God for being the source of my strength, and for helping me put into practice what I have learned. I became strong and wise in the Lord.

Joyce Larko Steiner, WDPIC Africa: In Vanuatu, many children in the rural areas walk long distances to go to school, some even have to leave home and attend boarding school at a very young age. Education for all is not mandatory. The school system is either in French or English. Bislama is a learned language to overcome communication barriers in the town, but in rural areas they have also their own languages. The equal access of boys and girls attending school is still in progress.

Taribongi Mangawai, WDP Vanuatu: My name is Mothy. My little brother and I grew up in a single parent home. When my mother re-married, she left us with our grandparents. After my dad remarried, he took us to live with his new family. After our stepmother gave birth to her children her attitude towards us changed altogether.

With more children to feed, and no room in the house for all the children, I had to find my own food in the streets and slept outside the house in a shack. I used an old copra sack as a blanket to protect me from the cold.

Somehow, I met some Christians who told me that God loved me. I could not understand this kind of love in the midst of my suffering, but I decided to trust. I trusted that God would take care of me, even though my family was not sheltering me. This trust grew inside me and became the foundation of my life. I am strong in my Christian faith, and share my story with others that we should trust in God and his provision.

Today, I pray for those children that like me grew up almost by themselves. May we know that God loves them and a home for children may be provided in every country around the world.

Samantha Figueroa, WDPIC staff: Vanuatu's estimated population growth is one of the highest in the Pacific region. Malnutrition is a concern in both rural and urban areas. Although the tradition of growing organic food in gardens is strong, the food industries of powdered milk and junk foods are getting access to babies and children.

Jerolyn Vuti, WDP Vanuatu: My name is Jacklynda. I come from a rural village. Since I was a young girl I dreamt of working in tourism in Port Vila. I travelled to Port Vila, to get a job in hospitality, but I don't have the training to get the job I dream of. I have no family here, so I am living on the outskirts of the city. I have no money for proper accommodation, food or to return back to my village. I know that this is not the plan God has for me, but I don't know what to do. I pray that the rural area of Vanuatu be valued and young people find the opportunities they search for in their own communities. I trust that God will provide for young people to grow and contribute to the wellbeing of Vanuatu.

Moumita Biswas, WDPIC Asia: With 75% of the population in rural areas with little employment options, young people have to migrate to areas with economic opportunities. They come with minimal education and no trained skills to enable them to gain employment in the city. High unemployment, amongst young people creates a generation that sees no future, which is a great loss for the country. There is a need for policies and programs for the betterment of the rural area, where the young people can stay in the community to be educated and have jobs.

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Song: "Be Good Listeners." *Composed and sang by members of the WDP National Vanuatu Committee for the 2021 program. ©WDPIC. Used with permission.*

Slide: Bring the children, the youth and the old. Let's hear the word of God according to the Gospel of Matthew 7: 24-27.

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC chairperson: Bible story

Rosângela Oliveira, WDPIC executive director: Starting a conversation by the end of the Bible story you just told, feels like we are part of the crowd listening to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The faceless and vulnerable people of Jesus' time followed him to hear the stories and it

seems that it made them quite amazed. Maybe they recognized a wisdom that they found missing in their lives.

What is the wisdom of this story that still amazes us? I am amazed by the connection between listen and act. It sounds so simple, but it is really the key to live wisely. What about you?

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC chairperson: For a long time, I have been challenged by the drama of the story. Rain, floods and winds fall with the same force on the two houses. Vanuatu, the focus country of this service, is used to seeing the forces of nature hitting their houses. The last one was the category 5 cyclone Harold. The villages are slowly recovering from the destruction.

Climate change is affecting our planet. It hits our houses, farms, health, and livelihoods. We are living in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we grieve for the millions of loved ones that were lost in this health crisis. We are all living the same ‘drama’ but it hits us differently, like in the story.

Rosângela Oliveira, WDPIC executive director: Yes, there are many ways to build a house, but what makes the difference is the wisdom we follow. In this story, Jesus reminds us of the golden rule “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12).

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC chairperson: Yes, what surprises me is that Jesus invites us to look at what surrounds us, such as our house, but also at the decisions we can make - and reflect: what good are we going to do with it? In small things as well as in big things, Jesus invites us to put his teaching into practice. I could say "put love, or kindness", I would say the same thing.

Rosângela Oliveira, WDPIC executive director: For sure, in the context of climate change and the pandemic, Jesus is calling us to consider our lives beyond ourselves. We would not overcome either challenges individually, we need the community acting in love towards one another. And that really amazes me.

In the long Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about peace, love, forgiveness, and concluded with the invitation to hear his words and act on that.

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC chairperson: In this World Day of Prayer, the sisters of Vanuatu call us to rise and build our homes, our nations and the world on the words of Jesus. Let’s together follow Jesus sharing love, building peace, and committing to justice. This is our solid foundation. Amen!

To meditate and share:

Jesus used two verbs to point out the conclusion of his teaching - HEAR and ACT (Matthew 7:24, 26).

- ✓ How do you feel about that?
- ✓ What do the verbs remind you of?
- ✓ In your context, what does it mean to be like a wise person or a foolish one?
- ✓ Are you astounded at his teaching like the crowds were (Matthew 7:28)?

Song: “Vanuatu In Neuem Glanz” (“It is time to get together.”) - Musik: WGT Vanuatu ©WDPIC; dt. Text: Bea Nyga ©TAG-7-Publishing. Used with permission.

Let us pray:

Rosângela Oliveira, WDPIC executive director: Loving God, we are amazed by Jesus' teaching. Help us to act on his words. Gracious God, heal the families wounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Help us care for the ones who are sick and comfort our heart from our losses.

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC chairperson: Guide our governments to assist the most vulnerable communities hit by the pandemic. Give us wisdom to follow you. Always. Amen.

Build on a Strong Foundation Greetings!

OFFERING

Through the World Day of Prayer offering women share their resources with women and children locally and around the globe, making the motto "Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action" visible to the communities in need. We appreciate your willingness to give and encourage you to contact a WDP committee in your country to learn the best way to do it.

You may find your WDP country contact information on the WDPIC website <https://worlddayofprayer.net/national-committees.html>

or email us admin@worlddayofprayer.net

Thank you!

Offering prayer

Esther Susana M. Renner, WDPIC Latin America: Gracious God, we thank you and worship you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us, of family and friends, home, food and water. We praise you for leading us to be creative and able to support our families. We offer to you a small portion of these blessings of money and service. We dedicate them to the World Day of Prayer that will share these gifts with the communities in need here and around the world. Amen

PRAYERS FOR VANUATU AND THE WORLD

Prayer of Intercession

Angelina Warren, WDP Vanuatu: Let us be united in prayer with Vanuatu and the world.

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

Florida Naio, WDP Vanuatu: We want to stand against the forces of injustices present in our nations. Give us this authority over our islands and nations.

Jerelyn Vuti, WDP Vanuatu: We pray that we can live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world.

Roslyn Caleb, WDP Vanuatu: Bind us together in love, peace and joy.

Angelina Warren, WDP Vanuatu: We remember the people living in places prone to natural disasters and the hazards of cyclones, hurricanes and volcanoes.

Florida Naio, WDP Vanuatu: We lift up our concerns for those who are suffering from addictions.

Jerelyn Vuti, WDP Vanuatu: Almighty God, protect the communities from disasters and suffering. Heal the souls of the people and let them feel the love.

Roslyn Caleb, WDP Vanuatu: Let's pray together 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. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SENDING AND BLESSING

Maral Haidostian, WDPIC Middle East: We welcome God's dwelling presence in and with us. Let God guide you, lead you, restore you, and heal your nation. Let God's will be done in your house as it is in heaven.

Remember, as you go out - everyone who hears the words of Jesus and acts on them will be like a wise person and the house will withstand the floods. Go and build your house on Jesus' words.

Go home with these blessings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King. This is our strong foundation - we will follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

Angelina Warren, WDP Vanuatu Go home with these blessings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

All: This is our strong foundation - we will follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

God Bless you! Greetings

Song: "Children arise and build." *Composed and sang by members of the WDP National Vanuatu Committee for the 2021 program. ©WDPIC. Used with permission.*

Thank You!

Our words of appreciation and recognition to all persons and WDP Committees that contributed to the production of the Worship Service video.

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Build on a Strong Foundation Greeting

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WDP Lebanon – Christina Hourani (Arabic), Mary Kechejian Hourani (Armenian)

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God Bless you! Greetings

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Music

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