

Reflections with Fr. Daniel

This homily was delivered by **The Rev'd Daniel Irvine**
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Homily for the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service

Readings: Wisdom 1:1–7 | Psalm 139:6–11 | Luke 17:1–6

There is a quiet power in the image of a wave — rising, moving, and breaking upon the shore, only to be followed by another. It is continuous, rhythmic, and unstoppable. The Mothers' Union's "Wave of Prayer" borrows that image to describe something equally constant and living — the movement of prayer around the world, hour by hour, community by community, heart by heart. It's a beautiful expression of what it means to belong to the body of Christ that stretches far beyond our local circles, and yet finds its meaning in them.

The reading from *Wisdom* invites us into that same movement of the Spirit who "fills the world" and who is present in all that is holy, true, and life-giving. It opens with a simple command: "*Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth; think of the Lord with sincerity of heart.*" The author is not speaking to power in the worldly sense, but to every person who has influence — the quiet rulers of households, communities, and hearts. It's an invitation to align our thinking with God's way of seeing, to become transparent to the divine wisdom that seeks to make all things whole.

For the Mothers' Union, that call to *love righteousness* finds its daily expression in care — for families, for those on the margins, for the flourishing of human relationships. These are the places where God's wisdom dwells. The Spirit that "fills the world" is not remote or abstract. She is at work in every act of compassion, in every effort to mend what is broken, in every prayer whispered for someone in need.

Psalm 139 carries that same assurance. "*Where can I go then from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?*" The psalmist isn't expressing fear, but wonder. The presence of God is not a surveillance but a sanctuary. Even in our darkness, says the psalm, "*the night is as bright as the day.*" That is the kind of knowing love that undergirds the life of prayer — especially the continuous prayer we share today. For

wherever our sisters and brothers may be — in joy or hardship, in bustling cities or quiet rural towns — the same Spirit holds them close. Our prayers meet theirs, and the wave continues.

When Jesus speaks in Luke's Gospel about faith the size of a mustard seed, he's not setting a challenge or a measure. He's reassuring his disciples that even the smallest act of trust, the faintest word of forgiveness, the simplest prayer offered in love — is enough. In God's hands, even the tiniest seed can take root and move mountains.

The disciples ask Jesus to *increase their faith* — and perhaps we feel that, too, especially when the world's needs seem overwhelming, or when our own energy feels small. But Jesus redirects their attention. It's not about the quantity of faith, but its orientation — a faith turned outward in love, rooted in prayer, sustained by relationship. That is what allows the mustard seed to grow, and the wave of prayer to keep moving.

So today, as we join our prayers with those of the worldwide Mothers' Union, we remember that we are part of something vast and holy — a movement of grace that has no borders, a song that never stops. Our prayer does not end with our "Amen." It is carried on by others — in villages, towns, and cities we may never see — who, like us, are seeking to live God's wisdom in their homes and communities.

In this, the Wave of Prayer becomes not just a pattern of intercession, but a sign of the Kingdom itself: God's love flowing through the world, healing, connecting, and renewing.

May that same Spirit fill us anew — to love righteousness, to delight in mercy, to offer forgiveness freely, and to trust that even the smallest seed of faith can bear fruit in the world God loves.

Amen.