

The Second Sunday of Lent World Day Prayer – Nigeria

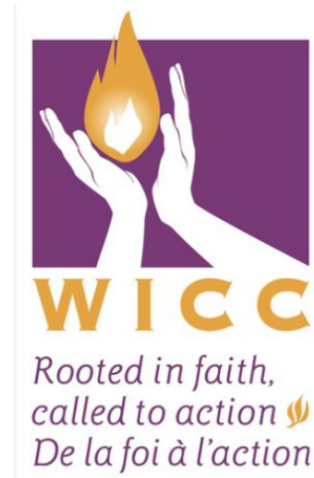
“I Will Give You Rest: Come” Matthew 11: 28-30

March 1, 2026

Gathering Music (VU # 344)

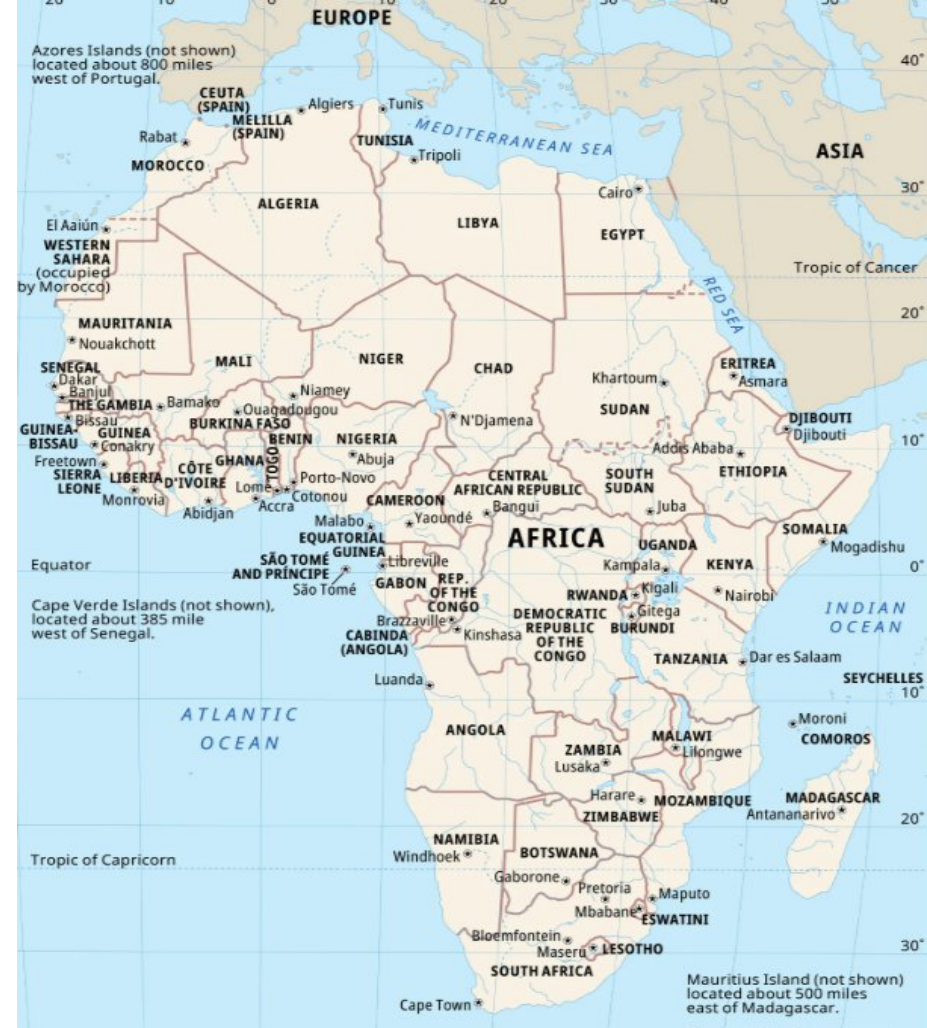
*“How Sweet the Name of
Jesus Sounds”*

Welcome



The Women's
Inter-Church Council
of Canada

Announcements



**World Day of Prayer 2026 Worship Service
Prepared by the WDP Committee of Nigeria
Edited for use in Canada by
the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**

Bible Study



Christian Living

All are
welcome !
Thursday
March 5
@7:00 pm
By Zoom

Announcements / Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday

We Love You

Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true

When you blow out your candles,

One remains aglow

Its the love-light in your eyes

Where e'er you go

(Repeat)



Lenten Candle Lighting Prayer

As we continue our Lenten journey, we see more of Jesus' life. We see times when He was angry and hurting, and He cried out to God and to those around Him.

We, too, find ourselves angry, hurting, and needing to lament at times. It is in those very times that we can remember Jesus and the God who never tired of his laments or ours, but rather provided understanding and a way through the difficulty.

(Extinguish the second candle.)



Prelude

“O Love that Will Not Let Me Go”

Opening Prayer

God, our Burden Bearer, we come before you in praise and adoration ! You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. In you, we live and move and have our being.

We have gathered, trusting your promise that where two or three are gathered in your name, you are among us. God, we welcome and celebrate your presence in our midst.

We commit this worship into your hands, praying that you will come among us. Help us be open to the Spirit that you are releasing upon us and let your presence fill this place. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn MV # 161 *“I Have Called You By Your Name”*

1.

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.

2.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your
soul can claim,

offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in Creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in
spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded
children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Time with the Young People

by Rev. Yun-Hee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUTQfBt6VNM> € Learn about Nigeria



Artwork by Juliet Enzenwa Pearch

Musical Offering VU # 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**



Offering Prayer

**Gracious God, may we open our hearts and
give generously as we are able. Whether we
dance, walk, or remain seated as we give, let
our offering be a symbol of our commitment
to lighten the loads of others. May our gifts,
like our prayers, be a tangible expression of
God's love in the world. Amen.**

Children Song

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”

(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)

- 1 He's got *the Whole World in His Hands* (x3).
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 2 He's got the wind and the rain in his hands (x3).
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 3 He's got the little tiny baby in his hands (x3).
He's got the whole world in his hands.
4. He's got you and me sister in his hands.
He's got you and me brother in his hands.
He's got you and me sister in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands.
5. He's got everybody here in his hands (x3).
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Come to Jesus, all you who are weary.

We come.

Come to Jesus, all you who are carrying heavy burdens.

We come.

God will give you rest.

God will give us rest.

Take on the yoke that Jesus offers. It is easy. It is light.

We receive this yoke.

Learn from the one who is gentle and humble in heart.

We are here to learn.

You will find rest for your souls.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Nigeria





**Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah,
A final – year Mass Communication student**



Vibrant textiles

source: Google



Rice

Source: African Media Agency



Carrying Olive Oil

Source: Nigeria Info - FM

Choir

God says, “Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.

If you will listen, you will know
I’m with you always where you go.”

All, sing together :

**God says, “Look up and see the prize
I’ve placed here right before your eyes.**

**Find beauty in the things of Earth,
a cause for wonder and rebirth.”**

3

**God says, “Come here! I need your voice.
Please teach my people to rejoice.
In who you are, in what you do,
your life will show my love for you.”**

4

**God says, “Reach out ! The world’s in need
and wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
to act for Christ in everything.”**

Stories and Prayers

BEATRICE'S STORY: The Burden of Systemic Oppression *Read by Noreen D*



BEATRICE'S STORY



Source: ABC News

BEATRICE'S STORY



Picture source: ONE Campaign

BEATRICE'S STORY:

Source: Hands of God
Widows



Internally
Displaced Persons
Camp - Borno
State.

Source: Al Jazeera



BEATRICE'S STORY:



Source:
Ikorodu News Network

Intercessory Prayer

Led by Noreen D

Let us pray:

God, you are the Great Burden Bearer. We come before you as your children, from all corners of the world. We lift up our voices, joining with Beatrice and all our siblings who carry the heavy loads of systemic oppression.

God of Compassion, we know that you see us. You see the discrimination faced by so many - women, widows, minorities, the poor. Some are overworked, breaking their backs in factories, fields, and homes, while others cannot find work to feed their families. Gracious God, intervene for us all !

Thank you, Gracious God, for the resiliency and resourcefulness of all who remain faithful amidst difficult circumstances. Inspire us by their example and move us to build a better world.

Thank you, Loving God, for hearing our cries and bearing our burdens. We trust in your unfailing love and your mighty power to transform situations. Amen.

Noreen D.: We will now hear Jato's story, the Burden of Religious Persecution.

JATO'S STORY: The Burden of Religious Persecution

Read by Rosalie



Dapchi from Google Maps



Leah Sharibu

Intercessory Prayer

Led by Rosalie

Let us pray:

God of the persecuted and protector of the faithful, we come before you with heavy hearts from Leah's story and the fears of mothers like Jato who send their children to school each day under the shadow of potential violence.

Lord Jesus, you faced persecution and stood firm in your faith. We lift up Leah Sharibu and all who suffer for their beliefs. Grant them strength and comfort in their darkest hours, inspiring us to stand strong in the face of adversity.

Holy Spirit, we cry out for those displaced by violence, forced to flee their homes and become refugees in unfamiliar lands. Shelter all who are displaced under your wings, providing for their needs and guiding them toward safety and new beginnings. **Amen.**

Rosalie: We will now hear Blessing's story, the Burdens of Poverty and Despair.



BLESSING'S STORY: The Burdens of Poverty and Despair *Read by Linda M.*



The sisters talk with police at the entrance to the National Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria, Nov. 24. (Provided photo)

BLESSING'S STORY:



Source:

Coalition for Women in Journalism



Source:

Safe Nigeria Resources

BLESSING'S STORY



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REBUILD PROJECT ON COURSE...
L-R, Imo State Commissioner for Works, Mr. Ben Ekweeme; Deputy Governor, Mr. Gerald Irana; Governor Ekeka Ikedibia; Archbishop of Owerri, Archbishop Anthony Olinara; Mr. Ray Ike and Commissioner for Education, Prof. Viola Onwuliri, during the inauguration of urban roads construction in Owerri... yesterday

Telcos Explain Failure to Attain 2% Call-drop Rate
Emma Okangli

Telecoms operators under the aegis of the Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), have described the recent directive given to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) by the Minister of Communications, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami, to implement the two per cent call-drop rate across all telecoms networks, as a tall order, insisting that the federal government must first address the challenges of the telecoms sector.

Continued on page 8

Xenophobic Attacks Threaten \$60bn Nigeria-South African Trade

● Buhari's special envoy leaves for Pretoria ● Rainbow nation closes Nigerian embassy ● APC calls for nationalisation of SA businesses

Isobona Ushagaran, Omololu Ogunmade, Alex Enusah and Adedayo Akintade in Abuja and Ejigbo; Aliko, Obinna Chima, Emma Okangli in Lagos

The tudy relations between Nigeria and South Africa due to the xenophobic attacks in the rainbow nation and the reprisal in Nigeria may affect the volume of trade between both countries, currently put at over \$60 billion, THISDAY checks have revealed.

The Consul-General of the South Africa High Commission, Mr. Darkey Africa, had put the official trade volume between both countries at \$60 billion.

Also, the National Bureau of Statistics First Quarter 2019 Foreign Trade Statistics also revealed that South Africa is one of Nigeria's top five export destinations as the country exported goods with total value of N325.5 billion or 7.2 per cent to South Africa within the period.

THISDAY obtained the data just as the two countries struggled yesterday to close rising diplomatic tensions, which has spilled into the streets with reprisals against South African interests in Nigeria.

In a pre-emptive move, the country yesterday announced the closure of the Lagos and Abuja offices of its High Commission in Nigeria over fears of attacks.

However, Nigeria said it had not been officially informed about the shutdown of the embassy just as the federal government alerted Nigerians to the spread of fake videos and news, which it said was waking broken. It also warned against a resort to self-help

Commission in Nigeria over the killings of Nigerians in South Africa.

Ahead the diplomatic tensions, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) joined the fray yesterday, pushing for the nationalisation of the local arm of the South African telecoms giant, MTN Nigeria

Continued on page 8

BLESSING'S STORY:



Source: **The Analysis of A Soap Making
Micro-Business in Nigeria**



Source: **The Mercantile Exchange**

Intercessory Prayer

Led by Linda M.

Let us pray:

Holy God, Giver of life and Sustainer of all, we give you thanks and praise for the persistence of Blessing, and all who keep moving forward despite even the most difficult circumstances. Continue to strengthen and comfort all who are weary from the burdens of life.

God, you know the poverty plaguing many lands. Children go to bed hungry. Families struggle to meet basic needs. We remind you that you are Jehovah Jireh, the Great Provider, and we cry out for your provision. Open doors of opportunity and soften the hearts of those who can help.

We lift up all who live with mental health challenges, often compounded by poverty, stress, and the difficulties of daily life. When economic conditions worsen and the value of money diminishes, we see more of our sisters and brothers falling into despair. Comfort those contemplating suicide and show them that their lives have immeasurable value in your eyes.

We also pray with those facing other health issues. We especially remember the burden of malaria that still plagues our world, and we pray for better environmental management and healthcare to combat this persistent threat.

Jesus, you called us to come with all the burdens that weigh us down. Here we are ! Lighten these loads and help us to cast our cares upon you. Holy Spirit, be our Comforter in times of distress. When we cannot see a way forward, be our guide.

Grant us the faith to keep moving forward even when the path seems impossible. Help us to be a light to others, sharing hope and extending a helping hand where we can. We trust in your unfailing love and your promise that you will never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened
unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

3 We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

Source:
maderinnigeriatextile Instagram



Call to Action *“As we have ... longing for hope and rest.”*

Where do we find our hope in a burdened world ?

In Christ, who bears all of our burdens.

How do we respond to overwhelming situations ?

We remain resilient, believing that the storm will pass.

Where do we place our trust in uncertain times ?

In God, the Giver of life and Sustainer of all.

What should we do when those around us are weary and heavy laden ?

Bear one another's burdens, as Christ bears ours.

As we go forth, what is our call to action ?

To live out our informed prayers through prayerful action.

May we go forth with the strength of Christ.

We go with faith, hope, and love, to be light in the world.

Be a light in the world.

The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Words

God sees our burdens - the weight of oppression, the pain of loss, the struggles with poverty and mental health. Through the stories we've heard, we've witnessed how God works in our lives, offering strength and hope even in the most difficult times.

Today, we've seen God's hand at work in the lives of our Nigerian sisters. Through the community surrounding Beatrice, our widowed sister, God demonstrated how love can overcome systemic oppression.

Source:
newyorktheatre.me



In Jato's story, we saw how God's strength sustains faith even in the face of persecution, challenging all of us to be instruments of peace and understanding.

And through Blessing's testimony, God revealed how hope and resilience can flourish even amidst poverty and despair.

As we leave this place, let us remember that God invites us to be co-workers in lifting each other's burdens. God calls us to prayerful action - to be the friends who remind others of their worth, the community that supports the vulnerable, the voices that speak for the persecuted, and the hands that offer hope to the struggling.

Let us collaborate with God in bringing comfort and justice to our world. As the Body of Christ, we are empowered by Jesus' promise: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This assurance not only gives us peace but also propels us to action.

May we go forth as living extensions of Christ, bringing God's rest and relief to all we encounter. In this way, we not only find our own rest in God but become channels of that divine rest for others.

Amen.



Hymn VU # 626

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
 and He has made me glad.



2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in Him.



3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in Him my star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
 'til travelling days are done.



Source: UM News

Blessing



May God be with you in your challenges and in your celebrations, in your laughter and in your pain, in your sorrow and in your joy.

Go into this week sustained by God's loving embrace of all you are and God's merciful presence in all you do.

Amen.

Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.

*Reach out to others so all the
world can see.*

*God will be there within,
around, above.*

*Go now in peace, in faith and
in love.*

Amen, amen, amen.



God, we thank you for being with us.
And thank you Congregation for worshipping today in
person and by Zoom !
Special Thank you for your participation in the
Service !

(adapted from the Order of Service & Images prepared by Christian women in Nigeria.)



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For further information, please contact:

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

47 Queen's Park Cres East

Toronto, ON M5S 2C3 Email: wicc@wicc.org website:

wdpcanada.ca phone: 416.929.5184

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who is writing the 2027 World Day of Prayer service? The World Day of Prayer International Committee - "United in Prayer for Justice and Peace!" in celebration of the WDP 100th anniversary.
2. Are you seeking funding for a social justice project in your community? WICC distributes WDP grants up to \$5,000. The application deadline is March 31, 2026. Go to wdpcanada.ca for details.
3. How can I become a WICC board member? Go to <https://wicc.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>

Grant Recipients 2024-25

Location	Organization	Project	Amount
CANADA			
British Columbia	A Way Home Kamloops Society	Young Women's Housing Support Project	\$5,000
British Columbia	Salvation Army – Cariboo Tree Temple	BRAVE Counselling Program	\$4,000
British Columbia	Kamloops United Church	Menstruation Supplies for Struggling Community Members	\$5,000
British Columbia	Central Okanagan United Church	Meals, Groceries, Food Prep <u>And</u> Safety Courses	\$5,000
Ontario	Salvation Army – North York	Woven – Empowerment for Girls and Human Trafficking Prevention	\$3,500
Ontario	Elora House	Building Hope and Healing for Trafficking Survivors	\$1,000
Ontario	Salvation Army – Belleville	Uplifting Experiences for Vulnerable Youth	\$2,900
Ontario	FCJ Refugee Centre	Empowering Refugee Women through Art and Recreation Activities	\$5,000
Ontario	Tyndale University	WIRED Impact Portal – Amplifying Voices of Christian Researchers	\$3,600
Nova Scotia	TREY (Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth)	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Aftercare for Exploited Youths	\$5,000

INTERNATIONAL			
Angola	Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission Canada	Economic Empowerment for Widowed Women and their Children	\$5,000
DR Congo	Canada Africa Community Health Alliance	<u>Tchukudu</u> Women's Emergency Food Initiative	\$5,000
DR Congo	Canadian Baptist Ministries Eastern Congo	Peace & Capacity Building Training for Women Leaders	\$5,000
Kenya	Canadian Baptist Ministries/ACC&S Women's Action	Health Products and Mentoring for Girls and Boys	\$5,000
Philippines	Luzon Convention Baptist Fellowship	Climate Change Adaptation and Waste Management Training	\$5,000
Guatemala	Horizons of Friendship	Maternal Health – Re-equipping Traditional Midwives	\$5,000
Cuba	Mosaic Church	Orphanage Support	\$5,000
Kenya	Village of Love	Emergency Grant for Flood Victims	\$2,000
Total			\$77,000