Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting (MULOA)

Group worship

Objective: Laid down judgmental and wrong attitudes and behaviour to others that have left them excluded or feeling excluded from Mothers' Union – whether individually or corporately

We all say the words in bold print together

Opening responses

Jesus says, 'I am the Way for you.'

And so we come to follow Christ.

Jesus says, 'I am the Truth for you.'

And so we come to dwell in the light.

Jesus says, 'I am the Life for you.'

And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.

We come together this morning, wanting to follow Christ, to dwell in his love and to leave behind all else to which we cling.

We acknowledge that we, as Mothers' Union need to repent – to ask forgiveness – of those who have felt excluded by our perceived (and actual) attitudes and policies that have denied membership to people who most needed our love and support, and could offer so much to our understanding from their own personal stories and experience.

We also want to ask forgiveness of the wider church, and especially clergy, who have experienced conflict with Mothers' Union members in their parish; where power has become more important than working collaboratively to bring about God's kingdom.

We also need to acknowledge those things in our own lives where we need to ask God for forgiveness:

Reading: Luke 6:37 - 42

Each of you has a piece of paper. But it's not for writing on.

In a moment of quiet, let us consider the planks in our eyes. Where we need to repent and ask for forgiveness for the many ways in which we have judged others, dismissed others, been intolerant of others.

Imagine putting all those things which we want to ask God's forgiveness into the paper and then screw up the paper to keep them all inside and place your screwed up papers into the bowl so we can offer up these as symbols of where we have caused hurt and distress, where we have been

judgemental, when we have not been listening to the experience of others – perhaps we could think about it as the times where (to use and Americanism) we screwed up…..

A time of quiet

Father,
we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing Responses

Look at your hand, see the touch and the tenderness,

God's own for the world.

Look at your feet, see the path and the direction,

God's own for the world.

Look at your heart, see the fire and the love,

God's own for the world.

Look at the cross, see God's Son and our Saviour

God's own for the world.

This is God's world,

and we will serve God in it.

Some parts of this worship are taken from: The Iona Abbey Worship Book

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