

# World Day of Prayer USA

August 15, 2020

Greetings, People of God,

“Build on a Strong Foundation” is the theme for World Day of Prayer 2021. The materials were written by the Christian women of Vanuatu. The theme is based on Matthew 7:24: “Anyone who hears my words and puts these words into practice is like a sage who built a house on solid ground” (Inclusive Bible). This sentence is found in the final paragraph in Jesus’ greatest teaching: The Sermon on the Mount.

In this sermon, Jesus teaches us that the source of radical transformation is anticipating God’s world and here are the guidelines for building that world. Jesus turns the conventional wisdom of his day, “an eye for an eye,” into a new interpretation: “love of God, neighbor, and yourself.” Paraphrasing St. Francis, this love means if we want to be forgiven, we need to forgive. If we want to be understood, we must first seek to understand, and if we desire to love, we must first love. If we practice this in our homes, communities, and nation, our world will be transformed. Jesus goes on to say in this passage, “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock” (Matt. 7:25, ESV). As we deal with the COVID 19 pandemic and the protest movement of Black Lives Matter, it feels as if our world is on sandy ground, but the women of Vanuatu reassure us that God’s creation is built on a strong foundation.

The World Day of Prayer USA Committee is excited to share the materials for WDP 2021 prepared by Christian women leaders in Vanuatu. We encourage you to start planning now for a meaningful event on March 5, 2021. (Remember, although the first Friday in March is the traditional day of the annual World Day of Prayer, the material can be used on any day that fits the needs of your group.)

Thank you for your evaluations and feedback on the materials for WDP 2020. Thank you to the many groups who designated the offering from their service to the work of WDP-USA. The contributions allow us to continue to produce high-quality materials and to address critical social and economic issues through grants to organizations in the United States and around the world. See our website for the list of 2019 grant recipients ([www.wdp-usa.org/grants](http://www.wdp-usa.org/grants)).

There are many ways to make the World Day of Prayer a year-long experience. We hope you will stay connected through our email newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook, and by frequent visits to our website. Share with your friends so that the movement will continue to grow.

The WDP-USA Committee and staff are grateful for your engagement and partnership as we continue to work for justice, equality, and equity through prayer, partnership, service, and celebration.

Rev. Fanya Burford-Berry



Chair, World Day of Prayer USA

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World Day of Prayer USA

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