



## POINTERS FOR THE LEADER

**The 2026 Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) theme is "Come, I will give you rest" from Matthew 11:28-30. The day will be celebrated on Friday, March 6, 2026.**

### *Planning tips*

- Create a welcoming space with signage and greeters
- Ask guests to sign in to help track attendance
- Check signage for wheelchair-accessible paths and washrooms
- Assign someone to greet guests for virtual services
- Program ideas
  - Have a worship service that invites people to notice aspects of their bodies that they often take for granted
  - Have a Bible study that prompts dialogue around Matthew 11:28-30
  - Have a creative tasks for children's program
  - Have a country background that includes information about the history of the Nigeria

### *Purpose of the day*

The WDP is a movement that encourages women to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and to strive for wisdom to guide their daily lives. It's a time to learn about each other and pray for one another.

You can participate by preparing and celebrating the WWDP as a community.

### **Planning Guide for 2026 World Day of Prayer (WWDP) Services**

**WDP 2026 Theme: "Come, I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-30**

**Writing Committee: Nigeria**

**Thank you for coordinating a World Day of Prayer 2026 event in your community!**

**PLANNING STEPS for a World Day of Prayer Service:**

1. Understand the Basics
2. Register for WWDP Service Resources
3. Become Familiar with Resources
4. Form a Planning Committee
5. Set a Service Date & Time
6. Choose Location & Delivery Style
7. Assign Roles
8. Choose Materials
9. Decide on Music
10. Publicize
11. Organize and Practice
12. Wrap up

**Step ONE: Understand the Basics**

**What is Women’s World Day of Prayer?** The Women’s World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian movement celebrated in over 170 countries on or around the first Friday in March. **Motto:** Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

**B. What are the Four Parts of a Women’s World Day of Prayer event/service?**

1. Prayer for the women of Cook Islands
2. Invitations for others to join your event/service
3. An opportunity to donate

**Step TWO: Register for WWDP Service Resources**

To create an account to access WWDP resources by contacting the office through email [wwdpsa@gmail.com](mailto:wwdpsa@gmail.com) .

**Step THREE: Become Informed**

Become familiar with the Worship Service, Nigeria background information, and WDP grant summaries.

**Step FOUR: Invite others to get involved, especially those from community area churches. A planning committee can be an enjoyable way to share the tasks** and more easily do the marketing, technical set-up, materials gathering, etc.

Service Coordinator/Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Other 2025 WDP Committee Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #/email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step FIVE: Choose a date and time for your WWDP event that best suits your community.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Traditionally, World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday in March. Communities may select a more suitable day in 2026 for their areas.

**Step SIX: Choose a location and delivery style. Check all equipment.**

Church/Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Power) Wheelchair accessible? Yes No

Audio/Visual equipment available? Yes No

(projector screens, laptops, internet, etc. - test out in advance at the event/service location)

If your service will be in or connected to a church, contact the Clergy person and let him/her know about the Women's World Day of Prayer movement. Clergy are welcome to call the WWDP office.

**Helpful Questions:**

**Will the service be in person or via the internet?**

**Will you watch the full-length service video or have live leaders/readers or have a combination of both?**

**Is there a place that you can bless by sharing a service and fellowship? E.g. retirement home.**

**Step EIGHT "A": Materials**

Make Your Own Offering Envelopes. Offering envelopes can be personalized for WWDP 2026 by creating a sticker that includes artwork especially created for the service.

### Step SEVEN: **Assign Roles and Decide on Equipment**

**Assign roles** for the event/service: set-up, greeters, readers, leaders, offering collectors and counters, and refreshment providers/servers. These will vary depending on whether or not the service video is used. Have a back-up plan in case of illness.

The worship service has been organized with 3 leaders and 3 women reading stories by Cook Island women. However, please feel free to divide up your reading sections to best suit your group.

Recruit a **technical person** to help with any audio-visual aspects including showing the service video, PowerPoint, sound system, Zoom, etc.

**Electronic equipment** you may need for the service: microphones, projector, screens, laptop. Test them out ahead of time in the place where you will use them.

Find time to practice your service – in a church or virtually. Test out all equipment in the service or delivery location.

### Step EIGHT “B”: **Materials**

#### **Service Table**

It’s nice to place a display table where it can be easily seen at the entrance or in the worship area. The presentation could include rice, wood, flowers, fruits, Nigerian fabric.

On the table, have a Bible open at Matthew 11, a print of the WDP 2026 artwork, and a map of Nigeria or the world.

### Step EIGHT “C”: **Materials**

#### 1. Artwork

You might want to display the WDP 2026 Artwork – **“Rest for the Weary”**

#### **by Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah**

because it helps draw attention to the stories of diversity of christianity. My artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women, whose lives are marked by endless labor from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often carrying both their harvest and their children - a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head, while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush. The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria’s diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them.

To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

### Step EIGHT “D”: **Materials - Signage & Greetings**

Create a **welcoming space with signage and greeters**.

Greet people as they arrive. If your service is in-person, you may want to give everyone a pack or rice to exchange during the service. Ask your guests to sign in to help track your attendance and create a sense of community connection.

Check signage for wheelchair-accessible paths and washrooms.

For a virtual service, assign someone to admit and/or greet guests as they arrive on the computer screen.

### Step EIGHT: “F”: **Materials for a Creative Event**

WWDP 2026 services can be incorporated into a paint session, food demonstration, road trip, special guests' performance, church meeting, and much more. Plan ahead and acquire all the materials you may need for these creative events.

### Step NINE: **Music and Sounds**

Phonetic Pronunciation of Māori Words and Phrases for WDP 2025 (Page 1 of 3)

### Step NINE: **Music and Sounds**

The Worship Service does not require certain songs or hymns to be sung. You can choose the music provided by the Cook Islands writing team (copyrighted for WDP 2026 service) **or** hymns from common hymn books **or** decide on a combination of new and familiar songs of praise **or** see the list of suggested hymns provided by WICC. Note any copyright requirements for sharing music.

Recordings, sheet music and lyrics for the Nigeria soundtracks, and suggested hymns are available by ordering using the order form.

Discuss with your choir and/or organist about the need to learn any music.

### Step TEN: **Publicize the Service**

One of the most important roles for a WWDP Coordinator is promoting Women's World Day of Prayer.

- Posters, forward media releases, send out invitations, supply bulletin inserts to community churches.

- Mention World Day of Prayer when you see people. Face-to-face invitations can work best.
- Call, email and text friends, neighbours, and community groups. Use Facebook and Instagram.
- Put up posters in churches, community centers, ice arenas, grocery stores, libraries, post offices, etc.
- Notify community churches with phone calls to pastors, office administrators and contacts for any church organizations. Ask for the service to be marked on church calendars, websites, print bulletins and electronic messaging boards. **Check that information can be found via internet searches.**
- Contact local, provincial, and federal politicians, and other community leaders to attend.

#### Step ELEVEN “A”: **During the Service**

##### **MUTUAL BLESSING**

A time to exchange blessings during the service is scheduled to happen after the OFFERTORY. Decide in advance how long you would like the mutual blessing to last, and if you would like your guests to also exchange rice or other items.

#### Step ELEVEN “B”: **During the Service**

##### **Offering**

**Give everyone attending a WWDP service an opportunity to donate.**

Donations support Women’s World Day of Prayer itself and the WWDP grant programs.

#### Step ELEVEN “C”: **During the Service**

##### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

**Matthew 11:28-30** is the Bible text for this year’s theme: “Come, I will give you rest”.

The Bible text can be creatively presented using drama or other expressive formats.

#### Step TWELVE “A”: **Afterward**

Many attending World Day of Prayer enjoy a time of fellowship after the service. If permitted, light refreshments could be served. For virtual services, participants may want to stay after the service to say hello to old and new friends or join a break-out room to create smaller interaction groups.

