

Worship & Prayers for Designated Sundays and Special Observances

Because in Jesus Christ our LORD you knit us together in love to strengthen communities, empower those who are poor, nourish those who are hungry, heal those who are sick and renew victims of disaster.

LORD in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

— Proper Preface, Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Break the Silence Sunday

In 2022, the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church [adopted a resolution](#) designating the Sunday closest to November 25, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as “Break the Silence Sunday” across The Episcopal Church. More details on this and other resolutions and policy conversations nationally can be found [here](#).

Many churches throughout the Anglican Communion take part in the [16 Days of Activism](#), which runs annually from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day). The 16 Days period includes other significant dates, including International Human Rights Defenders Day (November 29) and World Aids Day (December 1). Activists started the 16 Days of Activism campaign at the inauguration of the Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

By observing Break the Silence Sunday, we join with other people of faith around the world to take action to end the incessant violence against women and girls.

The goal of observing Break the Silence Sunday is three-fold:

- Help congregations learn about the reality and scope of the problem of sexual violence.
- Establish congregations as communities where survivors can share their stories and be received with hope and love.
- Provide congregations with ways to advocate for change in their communities and around the world.

A toolkit from the Episcopal Diocese of New York’s 2024 observance, including an entire worship service, can be found [here](#).

Resources from previous years, including payers, litanies and entire liturgies, can be found at the Break the Silence [website](https://breakthesilencesunday.org) (breakthesilencesunday.org).

Information about Episcopal Relief & Development's Toolkit for this observance can be found in the "[Outreach & Creative Community Engagement](#)" section of *Grace, Justice & Hope* (this toolkit) and online [here](#).

Daily Meditations for the 16 Days of Activism

[This booklet](#) contains 16 devotions, timed with and inspired by the annual United Nations campaign, 16 Days of Activism, which runs from November 25 to December 10. We invite you to use these devotions not only for the 16 days in November and December but also throughout the year.

Worship and Prayer Resources for the 16 Days of Activism from the Mothers' Union in the Anglican Diocese of St. Andrews can be found [here](#). Here is a [sample sermon](#) for use on the first Sunday from their [Rise Up Campaign](#).

[Here](#) is a liturgy with prayers and biblical reflection from the Lutheran World Federation designed to "unite our hearts and minds as together, we prayerfully seek to overcome violence against women."

