

# Mothering Sunday

## Family Worship

Sunday 18 March 2011

Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special thanksgiving. It is a day in Lent when flowers abound in all churches and when people are encouraged to share a time of refreshment in the penitential season.

### Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.**



*To make us feel secure  
They lose their life in ours;  
And what they mean to us is more  
Than we can say with flowers.*



## Hymn

Our Father God in heaven  
On whom our world depends,  
To you let praise be given  
For families and friends;  
For parents, sisters, brothers,  
A home where love belongs,  
But on this day for mothers  
We bring our thankful songs.

What wealth of God's bestowing  
For all the world to share!  
What strength of heart outgoing  
To children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows  
A mother's path must trace,  
And earth's unknown tomorrows  
Are held in her embrace.

How well we know the story  
That tells of Jesus' birth,  
The Lord of heaven's glory  
become a child of earth;  
A helpless infant sleeping,  
yet King of realms above,  
who finds in Mary's keeping  
the warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,  
To you we lift our prayer,  
That every child be given  
Such tenderness and care,  
Where life is all for others,  
Where love your love displays:  
For God's good gift of mothers  
Let earth unite in praise!

*Tune St Theodulph*

## Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*All* **Loving God, we have sinned against you;  
in what we have thought, said and done.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and turn away from what is wrong.  
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners  
This is his gracious word:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'  
**Amen. Thanks be to God**

## Offering

*Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order,  
through the bank. If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes  
to enable us to reclaim tax. All stand as the Offering is brought forward.*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour  
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**



## Hymn

Tell out my soul (Woodlands) 86

## The Ministry of The Word

### Collect Prayer

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

### Bible Readings

*These may be followed on Partnership News*

*After each reading the reader will say*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord) 617

### Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

### Prayer and Distribution Of Flowers

O God bless these flowers, bless us and bless our mothers. May these flowers remind us how much our mothers have done for us; may they remind our mothers that we love them; and may they remind us all that God cares for each one of us, because we are all his children. **Amen.**



## Hymn

How great the debt we owe  
To those who love us most;  
They give us birth, and help us grow,  
And rarely count the cost.

To make us feel secure  
They lose their life in ours;  
And what they mean to us is more  
Than we can say with flowers.

How can we measure love?  
Yet treasure it we must  
For what God gives us from above  
Is held by us in trust.

Then let us vow today,  
As those who know love's worth,  
To love, to worship, and obey  
The Lord of all the earth.

*Tune: Franconia Words F Pratt Green*

## Prayers

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed 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, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**Hymn**  
Lord of all hopefulness 552

**The Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love  
is constant as a mother's care,  
send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to Love and serve the Lord

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please do remain after the service for coffee  
which will be served in the church*



## THANKSGIVING

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:

For fathers who have loved and supported us,

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:

For children and their parents:

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us  
in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us  
into the family of our Father in heaven:

We praise you, O Lord; and bring you thanks today.  
Help us to live as those who belong to one another,  
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen.

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