

Mothering Sunday

Family Communion

Sunday 19th March 2023, 10.30am

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion.
This is a service for *everyone* to engage with and to participate in.
Please make yourselves at home.

Musical Meditation – *Love unknown*

Gathering to Worship God

- God, creator and parent of all
All we come to worship you.
God, you care for us like a mother
All we come to worship you.
God, you give strength and love to all who care for children
All we come to worship you.
God, you support us in good times and hard times
All we come to worship you.

We greet one another.

- All Help us to listen to the story of your saving love.
To share in your love,
and to be carriers of that love to all your people.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.**

Hymn – *Give me joy in my heart (no.201)*

- All Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
keep me praising till the end of day.**

***Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!***

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
keep me resting till the end of day.

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!..

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving till the end of day.

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!..

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
keep me burning till the end of day.

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!..

Saying Sorry to God

A time of confession is introduced, followed by some silence and join together to pray:

As a mother comforts her child, *[hold arms like rocking baby]*
so shall the Lord comfort us.
Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

You Lord, *[hold out finger, telling off]*
do not keep your anger forever.
Christ have mercy

All Christ have mercy

I have calmed and quieted my soul *[finger to mouth]*
like a child held by its mother is my soul within me.
Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

The Lord have mercy upon us, *[arms open]*
forgive us all our sins,
enfold us in your love
and bring us to eternal life.

All Amen.

Hearing and Responding to the Bible

Prayer of the Day (the Collect)

All God of love,
your Son was given the love and support of a human family
and you are with us throughout our lives;
so feed us with our daily bread
that we shall only hunger for what is right and just.
We ask this through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Exodus Chapter 2. Verse 1-10

The baby in the basket.

There was a basket in the water.
There was a baby in the basket!
The baby's big sister was watching from the riverbank.
And God was watching too.

Why was the basket in the water?
Why was the baby in the basket?
Because the baby was a Hebrew –
a great, great, great grandson of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

'There are too many Israelites in Egypt,' the king said to his soldiers.
'If we are not careful, there will soon be more of them than us!
So I want you to kill every baby Hebrew boy.'

Some Hebrew mothers cried.
Some Hebrew mothers ran.
But this baby's mother was clever.
She covered a basket with tar – so it would not sink.
She laid her baby in the basket – and prayed that he would be quiet.
And she hid the basket in the reeds near the riverbank
and hoped no one would notice.

But someone did.

And not just any someone.
The daughter of the king himself!
She went to the river to bathe.
She spotted the basket boat.
She sent her servant to fetch it out.
And when she looked into it – oh, what a surprise!

The baby's big sister hid, she could not bear to watch.
But God kept watching.
He had special plans for this baby.

'I don't care if this baby is a Hebrew,' the king's daughter announced.
'I want to keep him, and I shall call him Moses.
But I will need a serving woman to feed him and look after him...'

And that's when God nudged the baby's big sister,
so she'd jump up from where she was hiding.
'I know a serving woman who can help you.'
'Well fetch her,' commanded the princess.

And God just smiled.
For now, little Moses would be raised by his own mother,
taught the Hebrew ways
and be ready for that day when God would use him to set his people free.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Talk by Rev Joe & prayer activity

Hymn – O for a thousand tongues to sing (no. 485, tune 3)

**All O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin,
he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.**

**He speaks; and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.**

Affirmation of Faith

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Time to Pray

Between each petition:

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

At the end the following may be said:

Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Sharing in God's Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

So the peace of the Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hymn – Brother, sister, let me serve you (no.88)

All Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

The Lord is here

All God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

All **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power**
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We say an adapted version of the Lord's Prayer:

All **Eternal Spirit,**
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
you are awesome!
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.
Make earth more like heaven.
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.
Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.
Help us to let other people off and move on.
Keep us from bad stuff.
You're in charge!

**You're strong and powerful and always there.
Forever!
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you.
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

We come up to receive communion or a blessing.

Going out to Serve God

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Notices

Prayer for mothers

For the care of mothers;

All **Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;

All **Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;

All **Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;

All **Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;

All **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing on our flowers

Loving God, who is both our father and our mother,
we thank you for all the love we have known
in our homes, among our friends, with God's people.
Bless these flowers and, as we share them,
may they remind us to be people of thanks,
people of love, and people of joy,
in Jesus' name.

All Amen.

During our final song the posies will be handed out.

Hymn – Tell our, my soul (no. 631)

All Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Final Blessing

All Thank you God for the love of our mothers:
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Standing alongside all those who have mothering roles in our lives,
let us pray for ourselves as we depart.

We pray for strength.	<i>(make a 'body builder' pose)</i>
We pray for us to be generous.	<i>(hold out arms in a giving gesture)</i>
We pray not to be judges.	<i>(wag one finger)</i>
We pray to be able to inspire others.	<i>(hold out one hand, and with the other point up)</i>
We pray for joy in believing.	<i>(wave arms joyfully)</i>

Let us go into the world,
walking in God's light,
rejoicing in God's love
and reflecting God's glory.

All Thanks be to God!

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.



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