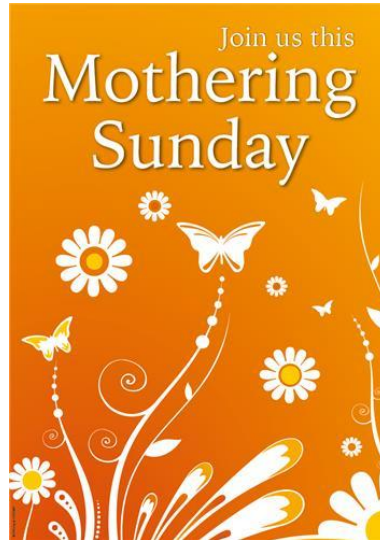


Mothering Sunday Service



Praise God who loves us

Praise God who cares.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children. Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children. Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for your church, a witness to your love, beacon of hope, a place of refuge. Blessed by God for ever.

Confession

Lord, we come to you confessing our failures.

Merciful Father, forgive us for our short tempers and angry words, our grumpy looks and sulky faces. Forgive us for the times we turn away from you, turn away from choosing good. Forgive us for not bothering, for not showing love or taking love for granted.

Absolution

God forgives you, forgive others, forgive yourself, go and sin no more. **Amen**

Thanksgiving Prayer

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:

We praise you, O Lord; **and bring you thanks today.**

For fathers who have loved and supported us,

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:
We praise you, O Lord; **and bring you thanks today.**

For children and their parents: For 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.**

God of light and love: We pray especially for all who find Mothering Sunday painful: We pray for mothers who watch over children who are ill and children who watch over their suffering mothers.





We remember mothers who are apart from their children and mothers who grieve because their children have died, and children who grieve over the death of their mother. For those who longed for children and who have none. For those without their mothers because of illness or death.

For children who are abused or neglected. For children missing their mothers on this day. Tender and compassionate God surround us all in your loving embrace; and hold us always in your care. Amen.

Collect

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. Amen.

Reading from Anselm of Canterbury 1190

- 1 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; 
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
- 2 Often you weep over our sins and our pride, 
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
- 3 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, 
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
- 4 Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; 
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

- 5 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; ♦
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
- 6 Your warmth gives life to the dead, ♦
your touch makes sinners righteous.
- 7 Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; ♦
in your love and tenderness remake us.
- 8 In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, ♦
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Creed

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God, even when I cannot see Him. I believe. I believe that I am never alone. God is with me. He is my Father. He has made all things, including me. I believe I can never stray so far away from God that there can be no way of return. I believe that God wills life for me, not death, joy for me, not misery, and he is with me today, and all eternity.

Prayers: ending with the Lord's Prayer

We give thanks for the Church, our mother, who brought us to birth in the family of Christ, through the waters of baptism. We pray that all Christians will hear again God's call to mother those in need, and bring them home to God. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken-hearted. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. In particular, we pray for those who have lost a motherly presence, and for those who have never known a mother's love. May they find consolation in God, the one in whom every family on earth finds its home. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have loved us and nurtured us in faith. May we be bold to share what we have received. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us into the many mansions of the Father's home. May we learn from them to trust God's care and provision for us, all the days of our life and into our death. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

God says: As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

For the care of mothers, fathers, friends and the church **Thanks be to God**

For their patience when tested **Thanks be to God**

For their love when despairing **Thanks be to God**

For their service without limit **Thanks be to God**

Blessing and Dismissal.

Thank you God for the love of those who mother us; Thank you God for their care and concern; Thank you God for the joys they have shared for 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

Praise God who loves us

Praise God who cares

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us;

May God who became man by an earthly mother, bless us

May God who broods as a mother over children, bless us

May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Now and for ever **Amen**