



Mothering Sunday Family Service

Sunday 18 March 2009

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

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

All This is the day that the Lord has made.
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.**

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

To God be the glory 708

Thanksgiving

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

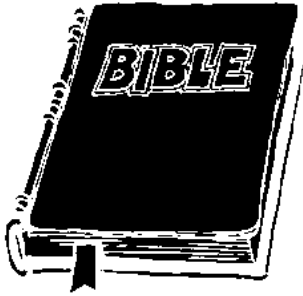
For fathers who have loved and supported us,
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

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

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us
in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

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.**



The Ministry of The Word

Collect Prayer

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

Hymn

Now thank we all our God 486

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**

Prayer and Distribution Of Flowers

O God bless these flowers, bless us and bless our mothers.
May the 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, be-
cause we are all his children. **Amen.**

Hymn

How great thou art 506

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

