

Worship for Mothering Sunday

¶ *We prepare to worship*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Welcome to this unusual way of worshipping on the strangest ever Mothering Sunday. We hope you find this opportunity to worship together helpful: though we are physically separated, yet we are united in prayer. So as you join in the responsive parts of the service, others join with you across our parishes, and we praise God as one.

✠ Praise and Thanksgiving

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

All **We thank you, O God.**

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

All **We thank you, O God.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love; and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

All **We thank you, O God.**

✠ Prayers of Penitence

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Silence for reflexion

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception. Yet we fail to live as your children.

Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good. Yet we seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.

Yet we ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

✠ Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✠ The Collect for Mothering Sunday

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 our joys and in our sorrows we may know your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *We think together about God's Word*

✠ Bible Reading

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

¶ *We come to God in Prayer*

✠ Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph. We know that in our own time there are many families who face all kinds of difficulties, because of pandemic, warfare, poverty and disaster. Please bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress; and, where no human love is found, may your love yet be known.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray for churches everywhere in these days of uncertainty; and for our own church family here in the Allen Valleys. Bind us together, and give us strength, patience and courage, that all may find support and peace; and that the lonely, the outsider and the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Loving God, as we see the troubles of our world, we pray for healing among the family of the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for comfort and peace where there is fear and insecurity; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your millions of children. We pray especially today for those who have lost loved ones because of the Corona virus. ...

Give them understanding friends and helpers. Help them to find peace, and hope, after what must seem cruel, random and untimely.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And finally, a thanksgiving for mothers on a difficult Mothering Sunday:

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 have given us.
Merciful Father,

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



The Lord's Prayer

We say together the Lord's Prayer.

As God's children and heirs with Christ,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
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 for ever. Amen.**



The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.



We draw our worship to a close

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us.
May Jesus, who was born of an earthly mother, bless us.
may the Spirit, who broods as a mother over her children,
bless us. May almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless us, now and for ever. **Amen.**