

**Crosslacon Sunday Worship on Mothering Sunday:  
On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



**Welcome**

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

We draw near in worship to our heavenly Father, with full and thankful hearts, that we belong to his family and are all equally loved by him. Amen

We say together our opening prayer.

**Heavenly Father,  
we rejoice with thanks  
for all those who have mothered us in our lives.  
In a world that is broken  
and in need of your motherly love,  
please use us to aid others as you do us in providing  
comfort, nurture, protection and support.  
We ask that you grow us as carers  
to those who need us,  
so that we might celebrate your goodness together  
even through our own brokenness.  
Amen**

**Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth**

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**
- 2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,**

**hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:  
Chorus**

- 3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Chorus**

- 4 For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Chorus**

*Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)*

**Invitation to Confession**

We bring to mind our frailty and fallibility, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ loved us....

*Silence for reflection.*

Let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's forgiveness and peace.

*Space for reflection*

**Prayer of Penitence**

Your love gives us life from the moment of our conception. We fail to live fully as your children.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.  
We have not always made space in our lives for the broken-hearted.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You pour open us streams of loving kindness and mercy.  
We struggle to heal from the wounds others inflict upon us.  
We struggle to repent of the ways we have hurt others.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

God of all mercies,  
Cleanse us from our sins.  
Restore us in your image  
To the praise and glory of your name,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen

**Collect**

**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**

**Old Testament Reading: Exodus 2:1-10**

*Moses' mother entrusts her child to Pharaoh's daughter;  
Pharaoh's daughter recognises her responsibility to  
mother a child in need.*

Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading: John 19:25-27**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

**Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**For the word of God in Jesus,  
For God's wisdom all around us,  
For God's word and wisdom in us,  
Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection**

**Response**

*We light a large candle...*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**Blessed be God forever**

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

**Blessed be God forever.**

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

**Blessed be God forever.**

We remember those who on this day will feel pain and sorrow: for all those who are mourning those who parented them; those who are struggling in relationships with their own mothers or with their children; Those who this day feel the sorrow of not having children of their own; those who are feeling the strain of parenting in challenging times...

*A period of silent reflection*

God of all comfort, bring healing and solace to all who are in pain and strength to all in challenging relationships.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, who knew the joys and challenges of family life, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient waiting love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*(Written by Helen Goldsworthy)*

Heavenly Father,  
Jesus, your son, displayed love to his mother even at his time of death. As we celebrate Mothering Sunday we praise and bless you. We give thanks today to Mary mother of Jesus, our own mothers and mothers and carers everywhere.

Let us also remember and pray for those for whom today will be difficult and sad. We ask that your unfailing love will surround them and that they will feel your presence in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Today we thank you for Mother Church; for the opportunities to worship together, and, as a church community, reach out in love and acceptance to the lonely, the stranger, the refugee, all who are our neighbours. We pray for the Christian church everywhere but especially in our diocese. We ask you give wisdom and guidance to Nicki and Becky our clergy and help us be active members of the church who love and serve you.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

On Mothering Sunday we especially pray for Elizabeth our Queen and we remember, pray and thank all women who have fought for others less fortunate.

Today we pray for the Mothers Union who work tirelessly here and throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for and ask your guidance for our nation and all other countries throughout the world. Lord guide and direct all in government towards creating a society of justice and peace. At this time let us remember the crisis in Myanmar, the Middle East and Russia.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving heavenly Father, we ask you to bless all who are ill at this time, especially those whose treatments and procedures have been put "on hold" as a result of the covid-19 virus. We pray for all those caring for them at home and in hospitals and care homes. Let us pray for Prince Phillip and the royal family at this time. Today we remember those known to us who are in need of prayer at this time

*A period of silence as we bring our individual petitions to God.*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have recently died, and those whose anniversaries are at this time. May God grant them peace and bring comfort and consolation to all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father and Loving Lord,  
we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit,  
may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name accept these prayers

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(A modern version)*

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.

### **Sharing the Peace**

Christ is our peace. He offered up his life for us with a love beyond imagining; with a love which dispels fear; with a love which holds and guides us through life's trials and joys.

The peace of the Lord be always with you...

**And also with you.**

*We listen to or sing our next hymn whilst we take the opportunity, if watching live, to record a peace greeting on the comments box in Facebook Live.*

### **Hymn: Tell Out My Soul**

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!  
Powers 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!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from Luke 1 vs46-55*

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### **Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us all to birth,  
strengthen us for daily life.

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

May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, 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.

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