

## Mothering Sunday 2020 – Virtual Church

### Introduction and Greeting

#### HYMN:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render, O help us to see:  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

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

Praise God who loves us  
**Praise God who cares**

*Candles will be lit.*

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

As we light this first candle:

**We pause to remember with gratitude all those who have truly mothered us throughout our lives.**

As we light the second candle:

**We give thanks for the gift of mothering, nurturing, deep within us, and pray for the grace to let its flame burn bright.**

As we light our third candle:

**We pray for all those whom we are called to mother, for the courage to love deeply, and to let go freely.**

With our fourth candle:

**We ask for forgiveness for the times when our hearts have been closed to the love, and need for love, of those in our care.**

## Confession and Absolution

Let us remember our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

*Silence*

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

**All: Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.  
We ignore the cries of others.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleansing you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE 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**

## READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-28

<sup>20</sup> In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

<sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' <sup>23</sup> Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup> When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'  
She left him there for the Lord.

**HYMN:**

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty Giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

**READING: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>2</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Short address**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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. (based on Ephesians Ch.3)**

**HYMN:**

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 break 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 loving,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
Keep me loving till the break of day:

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 break of day:

## **Prayers**

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.  
Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

**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 forever. Amen.**

**Loving God, accept the cries of our heart as we offer you prayers;  
through them transform us and all creation until you are in all and through all. We ask  
these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**HYMN:**

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 to 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!

### **BLESSING OF FLOWERS**

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

We bless these flowers as tokens of love and peace for your people  
In the name of God who created us, redeems and sustains us through all adversities, the  
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**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.**

**Blessing**