

Mothering Sunday Cluster Service

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made. **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**
Praise God who loves us. **Praise God who cares.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray,
lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Responses & Prayer

As we look at our world in Spring, **we praise you, O God, for signs of new life.**
As we think of those who love us, **we praise you, O God, for friends and family.**
As we look at our church family, **we praise you, O God, that you are with us in prayers and readings, in thoughts and words, in actions, laughter and song.**
Bless this morning as we share it with you.

Loving God, as we gather in worship we remember with thankful hearts our families, and the care of our mothers. We thank you today for all those who care for us, male and female, old and young, and we remember with fondness those who are with you now, who have cared for us in the past. Help us to learn more and more what it is to love our families and friends as you love us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

We started by praising God who loves us and gives us life, but now we turn to God in trust and honesty, to say sorry and be forgiven. We know human beings don't always treat each other as God's precious children. We need God's help to leave our mistakes and failures behind and grow into the people we are called to be.

Silence for reflection

Lord God, parent of us all, your love gives us life from the moment of conception, but we fail to live as your children.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
You call us to do good, but we often seek our own good.
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
You hear us when we cry for help, but we often ignore the cries of others.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Words of Assurance

The Lord is loving and forgiving to all who turn to him; tender and compassionate as a mother towards her children. May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Loving God, you sent your Son to be part of a human family. Strengthen us as we share family life together, in our homes and in our church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19:25-27

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

Reflection by Rev'd Sarah Northall

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father and Mother, 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.

Prayers of Intercession

An opportunity to pray for the church, the world, our community and all those who are ill, in need or bereaved.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Motherly 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.

Hymn - [Love Divine All Loves Excelling - YouTube](#)

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that you love each of us as a precious child. Teach us to treasure those around us as you do; to love with your compassion, to live in the power of your spirit and to work joyfully for your Kingdom. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth lived to praise your name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**