

For their patience when tested;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;  
**Thanks be to God.**

**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 for 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.**

### **The Blessing**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother,  
bless you:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.  
May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

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



## **Mothering Sunday (Lent 4) Morning Worship - 14/3/2021**

### **Welcome and call to worship**

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

### **Introduction**

Today is Mothering Sunday which traditionally, was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers. To say thank you for all they do for us. It's a day of mixed emotions, joy mingled with sorrow and regret. The mum we miss, the mum who couldn't offer the love we needed, the painful longing for children. Not least this year where the ongoing pandemic means we are torn between our need to keep life going, to celebrate relationship and kindness, and the fear and imposed isolation that we still face. God is with us, wherever we are at today and I've found that it's as we open up the painful places in our hearts to him that he can pour in his healing and reconciling love. As we begin worship today we're going to light a candle.

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Hymn:* **LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
At the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the  
lathe, Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
At the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
At the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is  
balm, Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
At the end of the day.**

*Hymn:* **Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and him who reigns,  
with them in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

### Closing prayer

For the care of mothers;  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Intercessions** led by Jackie Laar

*Prayers of Intercession are followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

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

**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  
**and also with you.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

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.

*We keep silence to recall our need for God's forgiveness.*

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

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.**

## Readings and Sermon

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (Colin Burnie)

**Sermon** (Jessica Turner)

## Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.  
**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.**

*Hymn* **Blessed be your name**  
**In the land that is plentiful**  
**Where Your streams of abundance flow**  
**Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed Be Your name**  
**When I'm found in the desert place**  
**Though I walk through the wilderness**  
**Blessed Be Your name**

*Every blessing You pour out, I'll*  
*Turn back to praise*  
*When the darkness closes in, Lord*  
*Still I will say*  
*Blessed be the name of the Lord*  
*Blessed be Your name*  
*Blessed be the name of the Lord*  
*Blessed be Your glorious name*

**Blessed be Your name**  
**When the sun's shining down on me**  
**When the world's 'all as it should be'**  
**Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed be Your name**  
**On the road marked with suffering**  
**Though there's pain in the offering**  
**Blessed be Your name**

**You give and take away**  
**You give and take away**  
**My heart will choose to say**  
**Lord blessed be Your name**