



Sharing Christ in the Community

A Service for Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15th March 2026 at 10.00am

SONG

Please stand

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**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;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the joy of love from God,
that we share on earth below;
for our friends and family,
and the love that they can show;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
thank you, Lord, that they are mine,
here on earth as gifts from heaven;
Father, unto you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

GREETING

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Please sit down

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We come to God just as we are. We say sorry for what we have done
wrong. We trust that God will forgive us and give us his peace.

Silence

We are sad because we have hurt other people and other people have
hurt us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We are sad because we find it hard to forgive others.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We are sad because we forget how much you love us.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

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.

PRAISE

**Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.**

**Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.**

**Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.**

**Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.**

**In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness;
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.**

Anselm (1109)

FIRST BIBLE READING: Colossians 3: 12-17 *Please sit.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 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. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 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. 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.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

Please stand

**Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Words and music: Richard Gillard

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 33-35 *Please remain standing*
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

At the end:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

TALK

PRAYERS

During the prayers we will use this response:

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

At the end:

God of mercy,

you know us and love us and hear our prayer:

keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Please stand

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who is our life and our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We offer one another a sign of peace.

SONG

Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.

Peace, perfect, peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Love, perfect, love is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.

Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Faith, perfect faith, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Faith, perfect faith, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.

Faith, perfect faith, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & REMEMBRANCE

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful,
holy and strong.
You made us
and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please sit

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Communion is shared. If you are not receiving communion, you are
welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

NOTICES

THE DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS

Loving God, who is both our father and our mother,
we thank you for all the love we have known
in our homes, among our friends, with God's people.
Bless these flowers and, as we share them,
may they remind us to be people of thanks,
people of love, and people of joy
in Jesus' name.
Amen.

At the end of the distribution of flowers we all say this prayer:

**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.**

SONG

Please stand

**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 vs 46-55
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THE BLESSING

May God keep you in all your days.
May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

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