

WORSHIP - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT - MOTHERING SUNDAY

14 MARCH 2021

Today we have no physical services in our churches, but we still meet on Zoom at 11.30 - the link is on the website. This is the Order of Service that is based on the Zoom service. Have a candle ready to light.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and shout for joy, and give God the glory.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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 - For the beauty of the earth - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOVFvctxv6c>

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

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.

Silence for reflection

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

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

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

May the Father of all mercies cleanse 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 compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bring together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament reading - Exodus 2.1-10 - is printed on the blue noticessheet

Hymn - For Mary, mother of our Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWS-Jtaly7w>

New Testament reading - Colossians 3.12-17 - is printed on the blue noticessheet

Address - my sermon (and sermons from Julie Clive) are on the website

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem – Boys' voices in G, John Wood

sung by St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU~6AGGAbg>

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession, written by Michèle Aspinall

Lord Jesus, You experienced the love of an earthly mother. This Mothering Sunday we reflect and give thanks for Mother Earth, Mother Church and our earthly Mother. You have supplied the earth with a wealth of natural resources. May we be wise stewards of your generous provision and ensure a fairer distribution of your gifts. Thank you for our Church and for the opportunity to worship as a community. As individuals, may we reach out in love and acceptance to the lonely, the stranger, the refugee, to all who are in need. We

thank you for the love and nurture received from our own mother. We ask you, Lord, to bring comfort and healing to many who will be saddened because they cannot meet up in person owing to current restrictions. We pray for those who have lost their mother and for whom the pain and sadness still remains. We pray that you will give each of us the grace to be mindful of others and to be kind in our words.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Last Monday we marked International Women's Day. As we give thanks for the achievements of women, we remember those who have nurtured us, taught us, inspired us and loved us. We acknowledge the challenges women still face; we pray that all may know equality of healthcare, of education, of wealth, of prospects. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who loves us all equally.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Last Monday was also Commonwealth Day, a chance to celebrate diversity and to remember that every person possesses unique worth and deserves to be treated with dignity. Through this organisation, we affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace among peoples. As members of a worldwide family of nations, we build on shared inheritances. May we cooperate with mutual respect and goodwill to deliver a common future for the good of all.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for young people who have returned to school, some with joy and others with trepidation, for university students pursuing their studies in challenging times and for all who work in educational establishments. We remember, before God, families of all kinds, as they navigate the joys and challenges of everyday life. We ask for Your blessing upon them.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for frontline workers battling to keep our communities safe. For scientists, doctors, nurses and care staff. We pray for those who keep our transport links running and for those who have no choice but to go out to work. We pray for those who are furloughed and anxious about the future and for those who have seen their entire income stream dry up. We pray for Peter, our vicar and for all clergy striving to do your work in such difficult, unpredictable times.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are unwell and for those who are concerned for loved ones, for those who were already very anxious, for those who are vulnerable because of underlying conditions, for those who are afraid to be at home, for those who are lonely, for those who are bereaved and grieving. God be their healer, comforter and protector, be their strength, shield and provision, be their security, safety and close companion.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, we pray for the coming week. Lord of light, help us to look to you in the days ahead. Guide us when the path seems dark and full of obstacles. May we always give thanks, even in the darkest times, and enable us to shine as lights in the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

And we pray, as Jesus taught us:

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.

Hymn - Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ji4y9Q-K0>

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.**

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

Final music - Coronation Scot, Vivian Ellis - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WiaXUdsPI>

We end with the other love of my life - steam engines. David has recorded it for us - if you want to see him play it, watch the youtube version of our service later today.

Peter Barham, 12 March 2021 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.co.uk