

Worship for MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today, celebrate all the people who care for us and look after us – and also celebrate the Church, which is God’s gift to us.

We give thanks for all parents who have loved and cared for their children.
Blessed be God for ever.

We give thanks for the Church and for all who have helped us in our faith.
Blessed be God for ever.

We give thanks for Jesus, who was born one of us, and who cares for us still.
Blessed be God for ever.

We may wish to write down something or someone we would like to give thanks for today.

We pray

**Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us,
who have encouraged us and helped us grow,
who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell,
who have supported us when times were hard,
who have challenged us, who have told us about you.
Nurturing God, we give you thanks. Amen.**

CONFESSION

God said, through the prophet Hosea:

“When you were child, I loved you. It was I who taught you to walk, I took you up in my arms; but you did not know that I healed you. I led you with cords of human kindness, with bands of love, I was to you like those who lift children to their cheeks. I bent down to you and fed you.’

So in a moment of silence, we remember before God, times when we have forgotten that we are loved, and times when we have failed to love or forgive others...

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

The God of love, forgive you, heal you and free you
To share his love in the world

Amen

COLLECT

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and keep us safe all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A LITANY FOR MOTHERS

Eve our first mother – thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth – thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.

Hagar – thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you.

Rebecca – thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.

Rachel – you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children – children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.

Naomi and Ruth – you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.

Mary – the new Eve whose ‘yes’ to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God’s most precious Son. May we never forget that in your giving is our greatest receiving – the gift of life wrapped in a manger and in a tomb. May we know the true cost of relationship by holding our faith in Christ deep within our hearts as you once held him deep within your womb. **Amen**

The Gospel Reading (from John 19)

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he

loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Pause for a moment to reflect on the reading

We remind ourselves of 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.**

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries,
let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Please pray for...

...our world and its leaders as they manage this health crisis...

...the people of the Churches of the world as they continue their mission, ministry, worship and prayer in very different circumstances...

... our own town, especially those who are vulnerable...

...volunteers and all who help us...

...those who have cared for us throughout our lives, and those whom we have cared for...

... all those we know who are unwell...

...those who have died and those who miss them...

**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.**

**Loving God,
We give you thanks for all who care for us,
Who have encouraged us and helped us grow,
Who have forgiven us,
And cared for us when we are unwell,
Who have supported us when times were hard,
Who have challenged us,
Who have told us about you.
Send us out in the strength of your Spirit
To share your love with the world,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**

BLESSING

The Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
Strengthen us for the Christian life.
The Lord who provides for all our needs
Sustain us day by day.
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.
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.