



MOTHERING

SUNDAY

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We come to worship God our Father.
Every family in heaven and on earth takes their name from him.

We pray that he will strengthen us and feed us all through his Holy Spirit,
That Christ will dwell in our hearts through faith.

We pray that we will be rooted in his love,
That we will all understand the full extent of Christ's love for us

To the one who can do infinitely more than we could ever imagine,
To him be given glory in our church and in Jesus Christ to every generation.

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. Thank you, Lord.
Amen

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Let us call to mind our sins, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life: Lord, have mercy:
Lord, have mercy

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread with others: Christ have mercy:
Christ have mercy

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves; Lord, have mercy:
Lord, have mercy

Almighty God, merciful and forgiving Father, pardon our sin, in thought, word and deed, and restore us to a right relationship with you and with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect – the special prayer for this day

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth: Grant that in our families on earth we may so learn to love and to live together that we may rejoice as one family in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bible Reading: Psalm 46: 1-7

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

A few words of reflection on this reading

These powerful words from Psalms 46 remind us God is our refuge and strength. Whatever is going on in the world around us God is there. God is there in the kindness, care and compassion of others. God is there in the smallest moments of joy, peace, hope, love and light. God is with us, so we need not be fearful. I know that is easier said than done, especially at this current time, but if we hold on to the unfailing and everlasting love and presence of God it is possible. For me what holds and sustains me at times like this is my knowledge that God is a God of love and no matter what, God is with me. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." I will be holding on to these words over the coming months and to the God who loves me.

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

A few words of reflection on this reading

I had chosen this reading for Mothering Sunday a few weeks ago as it reflects so well the themes of love and care that characterise our thoughts on Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is a day when we give thanks to those who love and care for us, who show us motherly love and for the church family of which we are a part.

This reading is about Christian Community, it is about Church family and being a Church. It reminds us that we are people of prayer as it encourages us to stay connected to God and to each other.

I love the way it talks about clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Of making the choice, just as we choose our clothes each day, to put on the values of God. And as we live out those values, we hold it all together with a belt and that belt is love. It is love that holds all things together. It is love which works itself in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience which characterises the Christian community and the life of a Christian. That reflects our lives.

At this current time, we may not be able to meet physically for worship, but we are still the Church, we are still a Christian community, we are still a family. We still need to live a life that reflects these Christian values. How that looks at this time may be a little different than normal. But living a life of love that works itself out in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience is still who we are as a Church. Think how you can reflect God's love and care at this time. How can you shine our God's hope and light in these challenging and difficult times.

Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

As our saviour taught us so we pray

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.

(or)

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.

The Peace

God makes peace within us –
let us claim it.

God makes peace between us –
let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you.
and also with you

I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. ".....(the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.

Sending out

May God who made the whole earth, bless us *(make a huge circle with arms)*

May God who draws us all together, bless us *(make a hug across body)*

May God who loves each one of us, bless us *(place hand on heart)*

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and all whom you love, this day and always.

Amen

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