



# **Mothering Sunday**

## **Social Distance Sunday I**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 202**

# **Worship Resources**

# The Gathering

## Preparation

- Find a quiet and comfortable space
- Remove or turn off anything that you might find a distraction
- You might wish to light a candle

## Opening Prayer

**O God who loves your world into existence,  
you give birth to hope in us  
and grant us a share in your creating.**

**Go with us in this time of worship,  
and inspire us to offer ourselves for others,  
that your will may be done,  
and your people be free to build and to plant,  
today and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Music

You might wish to head to youtube or put a CD on and listen to one of the following pieces of music:

- Brother Sister, Let me Serve you
- Tell out my Soul
- Now Thank we all our God
- This I believe

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**Like a mother, O God, you enfold us in your love,  
and with care and concern, you long for fulfilment in our lives.  
Despite your high hopes and best intentions,  
we wander off on our own,  
failing to take notice of your desires for us,  
believing we can do better ourselves.  
Forgive us, we pray, for doing and saying what you regret,  
and for falling short of what we could have said and done  
to glorify you and to herald your kingdom.  
Once more we ask you to take us by the hand,  
and guide us on the road ahead,  
showing us who we are to be, in your service.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ, our friend and saviour,  
who loves us and calls us to follow him.  
Amen.**

## **Reassurance of Forgiveness**

**May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us 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 on the cross 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 bind 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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### New Testament Reading

#### ***2 Corinthians 1.3-7***

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, <sup>4</sup>who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

## Gospel Reading

### **John 19.25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## Reflecting on God's Word



### **Online Reflection**

You can find a reflection from Calum on our website, facebook and you tube channel



### **Roots Reflection**

Even though mothers have to let their adult children grow up and to a certain extent grow away from themselves, their love remains constant. This is particularly evident in John's record of the way in which Mary, the mother of Jesus, is standing near the foot of his cross. And Jesus, aware that his end is near, commits those closest to him – his mother and the beloved disciple – to one another for mutual care and support.

Apart from recording who was with Jesus when he died, we might wonder why John thought it important to include these words. Was it because any words that Jesus said at this time were bound to be remembered? Was it simply a record of what took place? Or is there some deeper significance here? While we may never know what the exact answer is to these questions, we can be sure that the relationship between Jesus and his mother was strong to the end, even if at times Mary might have not completely understood all that was happening. While the pain of Jesus must have been immense at this moment, Mary must also have been in agony as she watched her son being taken away from her in such an appalling manner. Good mothers look after their children and there are times – sometimes completely unexpected – when good children look after their mothers.

## **Watching and waiting Study Question**

- According to Luke, when his parents took Jesus to present him at the Temple, Simeon foresaw the opposition that he would face in his adult life. He told Mary that, as a result of Jesus' ministry, a sword would also pierce her own soul. (Luke 2.35). Perhaps Mary remembered that prediction as she stood near her dying son. Would she also have understood how the nurture and care that she gave Jesus as he grew up contributed to his extraordinary ministry and authority? How can parents set their children free to become who they must become, without regretting, or protecting them against suffering?
- As his last moments ebbed away on the cross, Jesus told Mary that his beloved disciple was to be her son, and the disciple took her into his own home. Is Jesus creating a new family of those who suffer for following him? Matthew reports that after being told Mary and his brothers were waiting to see him, Jesus proclaimed that whoever did the will of God in heaven was his brother or sister (Matthew.12.50). What is a mother's role in the new family of discipleship?
- Is the most significant aspect of Jesus' encouragement of the beloved disciple to care for his mother that he wants his mother still to have a place in society? Would the stigma of being the mother of a condemned man have been so appalling that Jesus wanted to protect her, and ensure she still received the respect due to her?
- Jesus' mother's grief differed from that of the other women at the cross because she had invested so much of her life in his care. But was she mourning a man she admired and deeply respected as much as a son she would lose? Was this an adult losing a dear friend as much as a parent losing a precious child? Does a mother's relationship with her children change in character as they grow, and she begins to respect them for achievements that are entirely their own?

- Traditionally, Mothering Sunday is believed to date from a time when people in Britain were expected to receive communion at their mother church, which may have meant returning to the village in which they had been born and bred. This was an occasion for which domestic servants and apprentices would watch and wait, because they would be allowed a day off to visit their parents as well, and in some traditions to share in specially baked cakes. In Somerset these were known as *simlin* , and in Lancashire as *simnel* . The festival has now become a focus for many reflections, as a holiday during Lent, and as a time to commemorate Mary's obedience to God. How difficult is it for people today to watch and wait, or to make time for their parents? What do we regard as our mother churches, and how often do we return there?



## ***Prayer cubes***

A fun way to pray for your family

You will need: cube template copied onto card, one per child, felt tips, scissors, glue sticks.

- Take a cube template and decorate each side of the cube with the name of someone in your family.
- Cut out and stick the prayer cube together.
- Roll the cube and pray for the person whose name ends up on top. Put the cube somewhere that will remind you to pray everyday

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**



## Prayers of intercession

Loving God of the ages,  
like a mother you brought the world to birth,  
and we rejoice that we are part of that creation.  
Help us to care for your earth in all its complex beauty,  
and to nurture our children's generation in that sacred duty.

You offer us life in abundance.

**Help us to live as your children.**

In the squabbles and struggles between your peoples,  
some are neglected, some suffer, some die.  
Grant us the will to overcome hatred,  
to reach out to the poor and the victim.

You offer us life in abundance.

**Help us to live as your children.**

We remember the mothers around us,  
and the blessings they give to their families,  
and we pray for those who find it hard to cope.  
We think of women who seek their fulfilment  
in acts of generosity and service,  
and of all who bring hope to birth in others.

You offer us life in abundance.

**Help us to live as your children.**

We pray for all parents who, like Mary,  
have lost their children before their time.  
Grant your blessing of peace in times of grief,  
your comfort in places of sorrow.

You offer us life in abundance.

**Help us to live as your children.**

God who is mother and father to us,  
receive the prayers we offer  
in the name of Jesus, son of Mary,  
who gave up his life for the sake of your love  
and is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# The Dismissal

## Marking the Journey

- This season of life for our nation and our church has no definitive ending in sight yet. But the end will come and some sort of normal life will return.
- Each Sunday, take a piece of paper, write down something you are thankful for this week.
- Take this piece of paper and place it in an empty jar or box. Add to it every week.
- When we gather together again, bring the jar or box with you and we will offer them to God, together.

## Closing Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

**Amen**

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