



The Blyth Valley
Team Ministry

Mothering Sunday 14th March 2021

*Called to Mother in a
Broken World*

The Gathering

(Please join in the parts in **bold print**)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Welcome:

Traditionally today is a time to celebrate our “mother churches”, and those people and places which have nurtured our faith. This seems particularly poignant this year, as we return to our churches for worship following the latest lockdown. We are reunited in person with some of our church family, which is a joy.

Yet the joy is tinged with sadness. As we remember our own mothers, or the people who brought us up, we are very aware that most of us are still separated from our families and do not yet know when we will see each other again. As we celebrate motherhood, we also remember that many have seen their family life changed forever by the death of a loved one this year. During extended periods of lockdown, family life for many has become a strain or even unsafe.

In Christ, we are given both comfort and family. We come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God’s help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, struggling with the impact of the Covid pandemic.

We come to receive love and hope from the God of compassion and mercy.

Gathering Prayer:

**Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks
for all those who have mothered us in our lives.
In a world that is broken and in need of your
motherly love,
please use us to aid others as you do us in
providing comfort, nurture, protection and
support.
We ask that you grow us as carers to those who
need us,
so that we might celebrate your goodness
together
even through our own brokenness.
Amen**

Prayer of Preparation

God our Father, as Pharaoh's daughter noticed the needs of a small child alone in the reeds, so help us to notice those areas of our own lives needing care and attention. Therefore, let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's forgiveness and peace.

Silence

Prayer of Penitence

We have failed to nurture the needy,

Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to make space in our lives for the broken-hearted.

Christ, have mercy.

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.

Lord, have mercy.

Authorised Absolution

Merciful Lord,

you know our struggle to serve you:

when sin spoils our lives

and overshadows our hearts,

come to our aid

and turn us back to you again;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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 forever. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Moses' mother entrusts her child to Pharaoh's daughter; Pharaoh's daughter recognises her responsibility to mother a child in need.

Exodus 2.1-10

Make a 'basket' with your fingers. The 'hand-basket' is a symbol of the way in which adult and child care for each other.



Gospel Reading

In pain, facing death, Jesus entrusts his mother and his friend to each other, in their desolation and bereavement, to mother each other and his disciples.

John 19.25b-27

Sermon or Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom
we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth , we 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, we 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, we 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.

Jochebed, you used wisdom and insight to protect your children. Give to all mothers this wisdom and insight in the bringing up of their children, especially in vulnerable times.

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.

Loving Lord,
We thank you for all mothers and carers around the world,
and for all they do for their children.
We thank you for their patience when we don't get things right.
We thank you for their encouragement when we find life hard.
We pray that all mothers, foster mothers and carers would feel really special today
and that you would remind us every day to show them as much love and help as they give to us.
Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Peace

Christ is our peace. He offered up his life for us with a love beyond imagining; with a love which dispels fear; with a love which holds and guides us through life's trials and joys.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a socially-distanced sign of peace.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your
praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels
and archangels

and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born
of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
*Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.*

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your
right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your
dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your
presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace
Bring us at the last with [N and] all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour

for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and
heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of
everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ

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

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Spiritual Communion (if service is livestreamed)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
We ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more
dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

Giving of Communion

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

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

Prayer After Communion

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and
drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Dismissal

God of Grace and compassion
your son, Jesus Christ was part of a family in
Nazareth.
He knew the love of a mother and of a father
and by dying on the cross brought us all together
as new family.

help us in the Christian Journey to strive for that day when the whole of humanity is one family together in your church.

Amen.

Blessing

Let us go from here rejoicing
that God loves us and
welcomes us with open arms.
As the children of God
we take his love into the world
that others may also rejoice
and be part of his family. Amen

May the love of the Father fill our hearts;
May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes;
And may the grace of the Holy Spirit
bind us together in love
in our families and communities.
And may the blessing of God be with you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



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This service has been adapted from the service prepared by St Mellitus College, for use by the Mothers' Union.

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