

# Service for Mothering Sunday

**Sunday 22 March 2020**

- We hope you enjoy this service.
- The Bible readings come from the New Revised Standard Version.
- The hymns are Youtube links. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.

Hymn 1 [Morning has broken](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## **The welcome**

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

**All**    **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All**    **And also with you.**

## **The Preparation**

**All**    **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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Listen to God’s commandment:

‘Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long.’ Today, we remember how we often fail to give enough respect or attention to those we love, and confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all. Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

There is no Gloria during Lent

### **The Collect for Mothering Sunday**

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.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the First Book of Prophet Samuel

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only —may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin

of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my Lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord. *1 Samuel 1:20-28*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *Colossians 3:12-17*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Jesus, name above all names** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All    Glory to you O Lord.**

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. *John 19:25-27*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All    Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

I used to commute to work in Manchester. I did it for years, so I got to know many of the other commuters quite well. Most were very nice. Some were real characters. And some were just weird; so I'll tell you about one of them.

He wore blue jeans, check shirt, and ankle-boots with heels. Sometimes he wore a neckerchief and a leather waistcoat. His clothing made it clear: he wanted to be a cowboy. We didn't quiz him too closely, but I'm sure his favourite film star was John Wayne; so I'll call him 'John.' We tried not to laugh at John—that is, until he arrived for the 7:27 train to Manchester wearing a Stetson.

Some people, like 'John', wear their dreams in a way that is obvious and visible. Certainly, it was impossible to look at John and say his dream was to be a scientist, or a chef. His attire could only point toward in one direction: his dream was to be a *cowboy*.

In our reading from Colossians just now, God advises us to do something very similar to John. We are not to dress like a cowboy! Rather, we are to make visible what we long for: to display openly our desire for a life that is God-centred.

The list of how to make this dream visible comes in three parts, three garments as three layers: as the **first** layer, we are instructed to clothe ourselves with kindness, compassion, humility, meekness, and patience. This advice is good: if our actions are sincere and consistent, we will not only advertise what we desire, but this external layer sinks in, going deep below the surface. Hollywood calls it 'Method acting.' We will come to believe that which we act. So when the going gets tough, and it will get

tough — it always does — the visible actions are in place and have become habitual. They will carry us through.

All Christians find that being a disciple of Jesus can be quite different from being simply a member of society. To cope in a world hostile to commitment in faith in general and Christianity in particular, we are to add a **second** layer over compassion and kindness: we are to cloth ourselves with love. Love is greater than compassion or kindness and is therefore more visible. St Paul describes such love using these words: ‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.’ This love is highly visible, and we must wear it always, delighting in it like a treasured garment.

**Thirdly**, we are to cloth ourselves with Christ. As St Paul says, ‘Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.’ This is the most visible and distinctive layer of all. For the sake of your faith, we must learn how to be Christlike. To this end, read we must the gospels often, to remind ourselves what such Christ-likeness actually looks like.

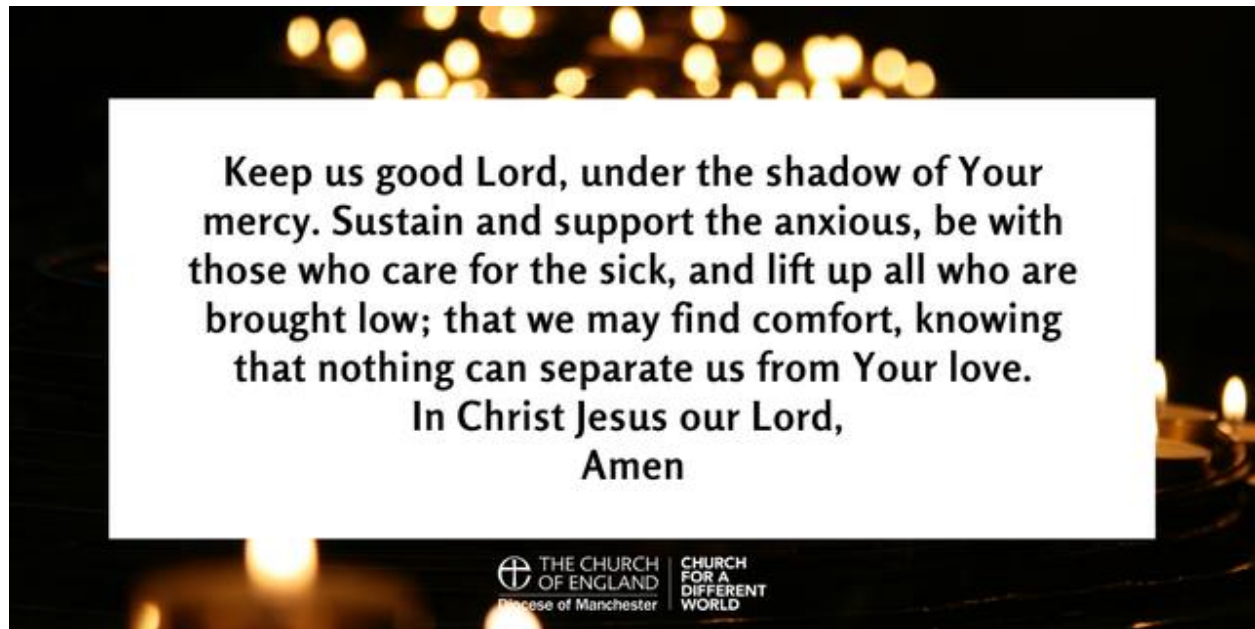
My commuting companion on the station had no chance of becoming a cowboy. There *are* no cowboys in twenty-first century England. But we *can* achieve our dream of a life that is long and committed. It *is* difficult to achieve: the temptation (particularly when the going gets tough) is always to take off these layers. And the outer layers come off first. We lose the Christlikeness before anything else. But if we keep these three layers in place: first feelings, second love, and over that wearing Christ, then motive and action, desire and outcome, become welded together. And that way our lives of faith develop and ultimately become an inspiration to us all.

## Prayers

The prayers of intercession generally follow these five general petitions:

- A response to the day, the sermon, and to the Bible readings.
- The Church
- The world and our host community
- The sick and those who care for them
- Those who have died

The Church of England prayer for this time of Coronavirus outbreak.



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

## **The peace**

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**All** And also with you.

## **The blessing of flowers for Mothering Sunday**

All beauty reflects the beauty of God, and points toward God in the beauty of his holiness.

*Let us pray*

Loving Heavenly Father, creator of heaven and earth, thank you for these flowers that you have made.

We ask that they may be channels of your love, and that they may impart joy to those who receive them.

Bless and hallow these flowers, that their fragrance and beauty may direct the faithful to you, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn 3 [The Lord's my shepherd](#)** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Mothering Sunday normally includes the blessing and distribution of Holy Communion. The liturgy of Holy Communion will normally occur here in all services. The full liturgy appears at the end of this sheet.

## The Dismissal

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.

And the blessing of God the Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn 4 [Shine, Jesus, shine](#)** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**



## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,

with saints and angels praising you, and singing/saying:

**All 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Barnabas and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All     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**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

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

**All     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.**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

### 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.

**All Amen**

**All**     **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out**  
**in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work**  
**to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**