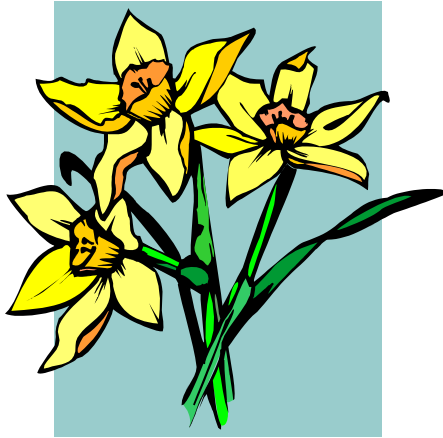


Morning Praise for Mothering Sunday



We gather

Welcome

Hymn

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All When God's people pray for help
help us today.

All When God's people pray for help, God listens
hear us today.

All When God's people pray for help, God listens and rescues them
rescue us today.

All When God's people pray for help, God listens and rescues
them from their troubles
Amen!

We say sorry

In all our services we take time to think about things that have gone wrong, even on a happy day like this. Mothering Sunday is not happy for everyone: some people here might not have a mother anymore, some might be unable to be mothers, some may have lost a child through death, or lost contact with a child for any number of reasons. Others may have had an unhappy childhood and have painful memories. So as part of saying sorry we are going to think of these situations. After the words have been said, we will listen to some music, during which please come up, pick up a stone and place it in front of the altar where we will build a kind of cairn, which is a special pile of stones to help remember things.

We pray for those who might be sad because they have no children.

All Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We are sad for those who have no mother.

All Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We are sad because we have been hurt by others.

All Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We are sad for all the hurts in God's world.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We come forward to build the cairn

We are sorry because we have hurt other people.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We are sorry that we have ignored the needs of the world.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sorry that we have forgotten God's great love for us.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Collect for Mothering Sunday

Loving God, you sent your Son to be part of a human family.
Strengthen us as we share family life together, in our homes
and in our church, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We listen

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

We listen to the Gospel reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk

We respond

Today we are specially thinking about being part of a family, and particularly of how God is a mother to us. Let's share together in these words:

All **We believe in God the Father and mother,
from whom every family
in heaven and 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.

Hymn

Prayers

All Loving God, we give thanks for the great love you have for each of us. We pray that you will help each of us pass that love on to the next generation. Lord, hear our prayer **please.**

All Loving God, we give thanks for all mothers and for everything they do, or once did for us, and for all that they mean to us today. We also pray for those who are without family today, for whatever reason, and ask that you would help them to know your love is always close. Lord, hear our prayer **please.**

All Loving God, we thank you for family life. We pray for those who are waiting for a new baby, and beginning family life. We pray especially for those who are trying to make home and family in difficult circumstances, especially in places of war and struggle. Lord, hear our prayer **please.**

All Loving God, we thank you for the family of the church. We pray for those who welcome others, who encourage and bless. Inspire us in our worship, and give us a new vision to show your love to those around us. Lord, hear our prayer **please.**

Loving God, thank you for everybody who looks after other people. Help us to know that you are always with each one of us. Lord, hear our prayer

All

please.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

Hymn

We go out

Blessing of flowers

Loving God, who is both our father and our mother, we thank you for all the love we have known in our homes, among our friends, with God's people. Bless these flowers and, as we share them, may they remind us to be people of thanks, people of love, and people of joy in Jesus' name.

All

Amen

Blessing

May God who made the whole earth, bless us.
May God who draws us all together, bless us.
May God who loves each one of us, bless us.
And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and all whom you love, this day and always.

All

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All

Thanks be to God.

Please stay and share refreshments after the service.

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