



A Service for Mothering Sunday

We have designed this service for you to use at home. We are living through strange and disconcerting times but we hope this service gives you a moment of hope, joy and reflection whilst our churches are unable to meet. Many thanks to Dinnie for putting the original service together.

You can use this resource however you wish, dipping into parts of it during the day or in one go. You could take part in worship with those you are living with, over the phone or on your own.

You may wish to create a space in your home to worship, perhaps with candles and flowers if you have them available, or you may be reading this on your phone in the quiet moment you have. Later in the service, there is an act of remembrance for those mothers and mother-figures who are no longer with us. You may wish to light a candle at this point.

However, you use it we hope it is a blessing to you.

Collection and Notices: It would be a bit daft to have a collection and notices in a service designed for home use. However, you may like to use this opportunity to share some good news, however small, with someone. It's great to share the moments of goodness in trying times!

If you would still like to give your weekly collection you can give securely online at:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate>

1

Traditionally today is a time to celebrate our mother churches, those people and places which have nurtured our faith. But for many this time comes with painful associations with motherhood, feelings of inadequacy or loss. Yet in Christ, we are given both comfort and family.

We have 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, where we have failed to nurture each other.

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

2

Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy

Singing the Faith

526

Chosen by **Chris**



3 Call to Worship

God our Father,
your Son, Jesus Christ,
lived in a family at Nazareth.
As we meet together now
help us to learn more about what it is
to love our families and friends as you love us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

4

Singing the Faith

363

My Jesus, my Saviour,

Chosen by **Lyneth**



5

Prayers of Confession

Heavenly Father, parent of us all,
we know we don't always treat
each other as you want us to.
Lord God, forgive us;
and help us to be more loving.

There are times when
we insist on getting our own way
despite what others feel.
Lord God, forgive us;
and help us to be more loving.

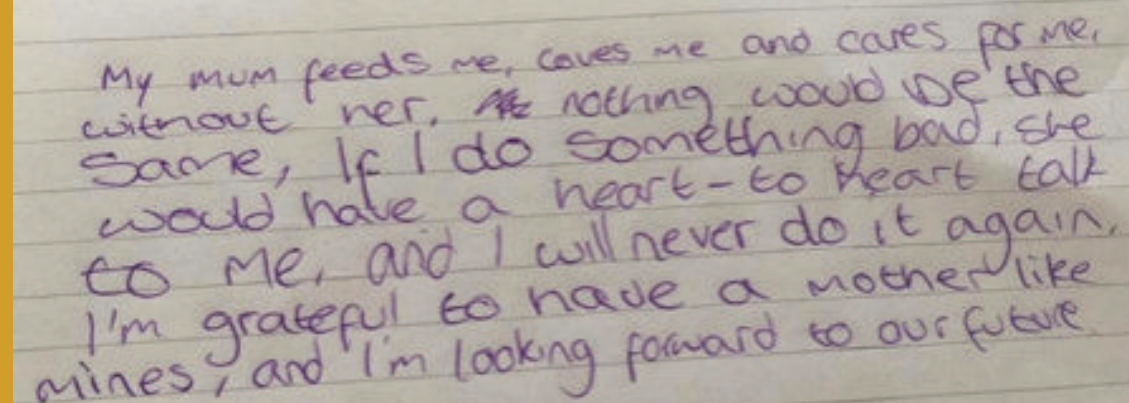
Sometimes we increase the tension
when we ought to seek peace,
or say things which hurt one another.
Lord God, forgive us;
and help us to be more loving.

God has loved us,
sending his Son Jesus to show
us the true meaning of forgiveness
Lord God, forgive us;
and help us to be more loving.
Amen.

6

Reflecting on Mothers

Some of the children were asked to write
messages about their mothers. See what they
wrote:



My mum feeds me, loves me and cares for me,
without her, ~~the~~ nothing would be the
same, If I do something bad, she
would have a heart-to-heart talk
to me, and I will never do it again.
I'm grateful to have a mother-like
mines, and I'm looking forward to our future.

from **Ashley**

“My mum is a excellent mum because when ever I
need help she help's me

My grandma is a amazing person because when it
come's to a cake sell she gives me money.”

from **Shaquille**

“Dear mum, You are nothing but the world to me.
You are always so supportive, so wise and so
AMAZING I don't know how you do it! You're
loved by everyone, you bring joy and happiness to
me And I really appreciate you so much I love
you to the moon and back. Thank you for
everything you do for me.
lots of Love from Clare ”

“ They cover our scratches
they do our hair
we love our mothers everywhere
and my own mum is beyond compare. ”
from Craig

What would be your
message to the person or
people who have loved
and cared for you?

7

Isaiah

49:13-18

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing! For
the Lord has comforted his people, and will
have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman
forget her nursing child, or show no
compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget
you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms
of my hands; your walls are continually
before me. Your builders outdo your
destroyers, and those who laid you waste
go away from you.

Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all
gather, they come to you. As I live, says the
Lord, you shall put all of them on like an
ornament, and like a bride you shall bind
them on.

8

Being a mum and a grandmother

A reflection by Chris Collins

Being a mum and a grandmother: Bringing up children is the most difficult job in the world. Especially in today's society where there is so much pressure on mothers to bring up 'the perfect child'.

Often women have other immense pressures. They have to work, look after elderly parents, keep everyone safe and well. Not to mention keeping the peace.

Not that there aren't any plus sides. Seeing your children achieve anything whether it be part of a school play, having friends or just being kind. Mothers cherish these precious things in their hearts, as they are priceless.

When your children have children they suddenly grow up. You can see them taking responsibility as you have done before. You fear for them but you see hope in your grandchildren.

In the end it is love and faith that gets all women through. The uncompromisingly love that mothers have shown throughout the generations and which will continue for ever.



9

Timothy 1:3-7

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith.

But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.

NRSV



10

A Reflection by Cherise

Being a new mum: No one can prepare you for being a first time mum.

No one can prepare you for those sleepless nights, feeling so exhausted or making a choice between food or sleep!

No one can prepare you for the amount of love you feel for a tiny human being.

No one can prepare you for the strong sense of protection you feel for this tiny human being.

No one prepared me for any of it!

Words, tips, books and advice all went out of the window as what was important was making sure that she was loved, feed and cleaned.

And I wouldn't change any of it!

11

Luke 1:46-48

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

NRSV

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1912. Mothers were to be recognised as an important part of our culture and lives. The heart of a mother is like a rare jewel. They love their children during the worst and best of times.

Yet all mothers are not the same. Author and speaker Patsy Clairmont says, "Normal is just a setting on your clothes dryer." We are all different. She shared that as women we may "struggle, fail, start over, and celebrate." But we are mothers who can love unlike any other person.

12

Sermon from Rev. Adam

Mothers are very good at using opportunities to reinforce or teach lessons. A mother is trying to get her son to eat carrots.

"Carrots are good for your eyes," she says.

"How do you know?" the boy asks. The mother replies, "Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses?"

Today is Mother's Day. The Day we celebrate and wish all our mothers a Happy Mothers' day. A time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers who have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many. For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the coronavirus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions.

God uses the love of a mother for a child to describe his FAITHFULNESS.

Isaiah 49:15, “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”

God knows that this image will bring most people into a reminder of the closeness they felt with their mothers. But God also knows that this image is sometimes marred by sin. Sometimes, some mothers don't act like mothers. So, God says, “Even if these forget, I will not forget you!”

Application: The Bible views men and women as different and serving different roles and functions, but neither is complete without the other. And mothers — like all women — are immeasurably valuable to our God.

God's greatest plan for motherhood is Jesus' coming. The Word of God, which was with God and was God. God's word became flesh, born of a woman, just like you and me.

Jesus is the greatest reason for the creation of motherhood. He is indeed God's love

demonstrated to us in humility and obedience as a sacrifice. Motherhood was designed to accomplish something so wonderful and amazing that only God would have thought of it. And He did. God took the simple, beautiful image of motherhood and placed within it the greatest accomplishment of all time and eternity, the incarnation of God the Son, who is our Lord and Saviour.

There's a special bonding that occurs between a mother and her babies. She's not going to forget that child. Neither will God forget His people.

This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father (who is like a Mother) and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, we join the Churches Together as we light a candle in the windows of our homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

13

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives: for parents, and the love which brought us to birth: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For mothers, who have cherished and nurtured us: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For fathers, who have loved and supported us, we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For brothers and sisters, with whom we have shared our home: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For children and their parents: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us in our hopes and joys and in times of sadness: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven: we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another, and to you, our Father, now and always.
Amen.



14

Singing the Faith

645

Chosen by **Bernice**



¹ Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

² Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your barque o'erflow?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

³ Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail,
while your anchor holds within the veil:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

⁴ Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past for evermore?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

15

Prayers of Confession

Lord Jesus, you know well the blessings an earthly home can bring: receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years.

Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the cross. Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake.

Lord in your mercy

Thank you for your motherly love

Remember, O Lord, all those in need: people with no good food or proper clothes, no home of their own, or no work to do; those who have neither family nor friends and no knowledge of your love. Bless those who help them

and bring us all to trust in you.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Lord in your mercy

Thank you for motherly love

God our Father,
we ask you to bless all who live alone,
those who have lost their partner in marriage,
those who have never married,
those whose families are grown up and away from home,
and those who have outlived other members of their families
and many of their friends:

Be with them to assure them of your love
and of their value to you every moment of their lives,

and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church

on earth and in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy

Thank you for motherly love

Father in heaven, bless all mothers
and those who look after us in our daily lives.

Make us grateful for their kindness
and thankful for their care.

Help us to respond to them in loving obedience,
following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

16

The Lords 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 forever.
Amen.

17

A Time of Remembrance

Set aside some time to remember those mother figures who are no longer with us. Perhaps light a candle as an act of remembrance.





18

Singing the Faith

663

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

Chosen by **Jaecklin**

19

Dismissal

May God the Father keep us in his care.
May the Lord Jesus Christ be our constant friend
and the Holy Spirit guide us in all that we do,
now and always.
Amen.