



# **Mothering Sunday Resources 2018**

- ***A Mothers' Union Family Service for Mothering Sunday 2018***
- ***Notes for Family Service on Mothering Sunday 2018***
- ***Prayers for Mothering Sunday 2018***
- ***Children's Resources for Mothering Sunday 2018***
- ***Liturgy for Mothering Sunday prepared by St Mellitus Theological College***



# Mothering Sunday Resources 2018

## Contents:

### Page

3	<i>A Mothers' Union Family Service for Mothering Sunday 2018</i>
7	<i>Notes for Family Service on Mothering Sunday 2018</i>
9	<i>Prayers for Mothering Sunday 2018</i>
11	<i>Children's Resources for Mothering Sunday 2018</i>
17	<i>Liturgy for Mothering Sunday 2018, prepared by students from St. Mellitus Theological College</i>



# A Mothers' Union Family Service for Mothering Sunday 2018

## **Welcome**

Welcome to our Mothering Sunday Family Service

Today is a special time to thank God for mothers and all who help our families to flourish and grow well.

It's also a time to celebrate our church family where we are all united together as brothers and sisters in Christ, with God as our perfect heavenly parent.

Let us pray: *(a child may read this prayer)*

Father God,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,  
and for all they do to help our families grow well.

We thank you too for our church family,  
where we can care for each other  
as brothers and sisters in Christ.

And, most of all, we thank you, Lord,  
that you are our heavenly parent  
who loves us and helps all families grow well. **Amen**

## **Hymn:**

**Readings** *(Two children could read these if appropriate)*

**Stay close to Jesus:** John 15:5, 9-12

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.

**Our church family:** 1 John 3:1; 4:21

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## Talk

*The children may like to come up to the front for the talk*

*Have a dry stick-like plant; watering can; plant food; items to represent ways to help a family grow well\**

As it's Mothering Sunday today I thought I'd show you my plant that I was hoping to give to someone who cares for me. I planted it a little while ago but it's not doing very well.

*Show children the dry plant and ask for suggestions as to how to make it grow better.*

*Encourage suggestions such as watering, plant food, maybe sunshine, talking to it! etc.*

*Thank them for their helpful suggestions which you will try out and see what happens.*

This reminds me that we sometimes talk about family trees. By this, people usually mean finding out who is in their family in the present and who has been in their family in years gone by. Sometimes people can discover all about their family members from hundreds of years ago!

But just imagine our families as a real tree or plant. To make our family grow well we will want to care for it just like you showed me how to care for my plant. But instead of water and plant food there are other things that our families need to make them grow well.

I wonder if you can think of what will make a family grow well.

*Produce the watering can and choose volunteers to delve into it and bring out one thing each to represent love, kindness, time for each other, e.g. heart, clock, card with "sorry" written on it.... \**

All of us can help our families grow well by loving each other, showing kindness, forgiving each other when things go wrong, spending time together...

But today especially we want to thank God for our mums and those who care for us, for their love and all that they do to make our families grow well.

And did you know that all of us here belong to two families! We have our own family we belong to and we have our church family that we're also part of; with God as our heavenly Father and each other like brothers and sisters. Sometimes the church is called "mother church" so it's particularly good to remember we are part of it on this special day.

So we have our own family tree and we have our family of God tree, and today we want to thank our mums and those who care for us and our church family for helping both trees to grow well.



*You may like to provide paper leaf shapes for each in the congregation to write their name on. These could be gathered up and helpers stick the leaves onto a tree outline, or a useful pillar at the front of the church.*

## **Something about Mothers' Union**

[Story from MAMD](#)

### **Hymn:**

### **Offering:**

[Blurb about Mothers' Union...](#)

[This Mothering Sunday please support us as we reach out creatively and actively to nurture flourishing family relationships....](#)

It's good to remember that however life is for us we all belong to our special church family where we are loved and accepted, and where we can show our love for God by caring for each other.

This Bible verse reminds us of this:

**Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**

**1 John 4:21**

*Explain that the verse is talking about their church family not just their own family.*

*Ask children to show the congregation the actions then the whole church family to say the verse with actions together.*

### **Giving out of thank you gifts/cards**

We've thought about the different ways our Mums and those who care for us help our family and our church family grow well so now we want to say thank you.

*Children can give out their "Thank You" cards and planted bulbs or other appropriate gifts to their Mums, carers and to the congregation.*

It's good to say thank you to people who care for us. It's also good to pray for our families. So let's pray now.

*The children could also sing their Thank You song from the children's resources here.*

### **Prayers**

Father God,  
help us to grow our families well  
by staying close to you  
like branches joined to a tree.

*Children raise arms high like branches*





Help us to grow our families well  
by staying close to each other  
like leaves clustered on a branch.  
*Children move close together, raise arms  
and cross hands to make leaf shapes*

Help us to grow our church family well  
by staying close to you and each other  
so we can be rooted in your love  
and share our faith together.  
*Children raise arms high, then move close together  
Crouch and point down, then point to everyone*

*You may like to include an informal sharing of the peace where the church family, including the children, greet each other with words such as  
“Peace be with you and all our family .....*

### **Final hymn:**

#### **Blessing**

Let us go from here rejoicing  
in our family on earth  
and our family the church.  
As the children of God  
we take his love into the world  
that others may also rejoice  
and be part of his family. **Amen**

*Further Mothering Sunday resources can be found on the Mothers’ Union website*

<http://www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday>



# Notes for Family Service on Mothering Sunday 2018

The service provided is just an outline which can be adapted to suit your particular situation. If the children are not going to be present throughout and a more formal service is required then the various suggestions for prayers, readings and talk can be inserted into a more suitable framework.

Or you may like to use our Mothering Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy, written by theological students at St. Mellitus Theological College under the supervision of Jane Williams, renowned theologian and wife of former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

If you would like the children to “own” the service even more, then time could be given in their groups in the weeks before the service for them to practise the Bible verse for inclusion. 1 John 4:21

Anyone who loves God *Point to self, then clap hands upwards* must also love their brother and sister.

*Point to and clap each other and the congregation*

*1 John 4:21 Make “book” with open hands*

They may also like to practise the “**Thank You**” song for the service.

Thank you Lord for those who care  
Thank you Lord for those who care  
Thank you Lord for those who care  
for our family.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord  
for our family.

We care for our church family  
We care for our church family  
We care for our church family  
and they care for us.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord  
for our family.

Original song by Diane Davis Andrew; 1971, 1975 Celebration/Kingsway's Thankyou Music (words adapted)

The “Thank You” cards and gifts to be given out can also be made beforehand in their groups.



## Prayers

There are extra prayers on the separate sheet and the Mothers' Union website

## Suggested hymns and songs:

### All our blessings

*Tune: All things bright and beautiful*

*All our blessings, all our joys,  
With thankful hearts we sing,  
God of love and faithfulness,  
Accept the praise we bring.*

For parents and for children,  
For husbands, wives, and friends,  
For those whose care enfolds us  
With love that never ends.

For fellowship and friendship  
For all we have to give,  
For those who've shared our journey  
And taught us how to live.

For all who've shared our sorrow,  
Walked with us in our pain,  
Who've held our hand through darkness  
And showed us light again.

In sacrifice and service  
Your love is clearly shown,  
Your outstretched arms  
embrace us to bring us safely home.

<https://reverendally.org/2015/02/24/mothering-sunday/>

- ❖ Brother, sister let me serve you
- ❖ For the beauty of the earth
- ❖ Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us
- ❖ Now thank we all our God
- ❖ Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do
- ❖ One more step along the world I go
- ❖ Tell out my soul (timothy Dudley-Smith 1961)
- ❖ He's got the whole world in His hands
- ❖ I know Jesus loves me (Ishmael 2003)
- ❖ As for me and my house (Jim Bailey 1997)
- ❖ I'm gonna jump up and down (Doug Horley 2002)
- ❖ Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds 1989)
- ❖ This is the day that the Lord has made (*be creative in adding extra verses*)







# Prayers for Mothering Sunday 2018

## **Responsive Prayer for Mothering Sunday**

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.  
**Illumine our homes with the light of your love.**

We thank you for gifts of love we have received.

**From our mothers  
and those who have served as mothers in many ways,  
nourishing us and guiding us as we grow to be who we are.**

As we have been loved by them,  
so we are loved by you, O God.  
Join with us in this day of celebration  
as we rejoice in being loved.

**As you grant us peace in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
so we come to worship in His holy name.**

<http://firstumcmocksville.org/>



Loving God,  
Thank you for mums and children  
and for all the joy of family life.  
Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;  
Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;  
Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.  
Let your love be present in every home,  
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear  
the needs of all who come.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Church of England*



Thank you God for the love of our mothers:  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Church of England*



Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us  
*St Anselm of Canterbury*



***After each section this response may be used***

God of love,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us  
to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and  
truth.

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph;  
bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living  
under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may  
find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may  
be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among  
the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is  
oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all  
your children.

[https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-  
worship/worship/texts/newpatterns/sampleservicescontents/npw14.aspx](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/newpatterns/sampleservicescontents/npw14.aspx)





Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us,  
who have encouraged us and helped us grow,  
who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell,  
who have supported us when times were hard,  
who have challenged us, who have told us about you.  
Nurturing God, we give you thanks. Amen.

*Diocese of Bath & Wells*



Loving Lord,  
we thank you for all who comprise our extended family;  
those who become family through friendship.  
Those with whom we have walked the valleys  
and rejoiced on the mountain top.

Loving Lord,  
we pray for all who stand in the gap  
when immediate family are absent;  
who mother and father the needy child,  
give care and support to the struggling parent,  
companionship to the lonely and aged.

**Loving Lord,  
as you welcome us into your family,  
help us be ever ready to extend our family circle,  
to welcome those in need of family love. Amen**



*Further Mothering Sunday prayers can be found on the Mothers' union website <http://www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday>*



# Children's Resources for Mothering Sunday 2018

*Further Mothering Sunday resources can be found on the Mothers' Union website*

*[www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday](http://www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday)*

**Bible story:** *to be used if it will not form part of a family service*

*Have a dry stick-like plant; watering can; plant food; items to represent ways to help a family grow well\**

As it's Mothering Sunday today I thought I'd show you my plant that I was hoping to give to someone who cares for me. I planted it a little while ago but it's not doing very well.

*Show children the dry plant and ask for suggestions as to how to make it grow better. Encourage suggestions such as watering, plant food, maybe sunshine, talking to it! etc. Thank them for their helpful suggestions which you will try out and see what happens.*

This reminds me that we sometimes talk about family trees. By this, people usually mean finding out who is in their family in the present and who has been in their family in years gone by. Sometimes people can discover all about their family members from hundreds of years ago!

But just imagine our families as a real tree or plant. To make our family grow well we will want to care for it just like you showed me how to care for my plant. But instead of water and plant food there are other things that our families need to make them grow well.

I wonder if you can think of what will make a family grow well.

*Produce the watering can and choose volunteers to delve into it and bring out one thing each to represent love, kindness, time for each other, e.g. heart, clock, card with "sorry" written on it.... \**

All of us can help our families grow well by loving each other, showing kindness, forgiving each other when things go wrong, spending time together...

But today especially we want to thank God for our mums and those who care for us, for their love and all that they do to make our families grow well.

And did you know that all of us here belong to two families! We have our own family we belong to and we have our church family that we're also part of; with God as our heavenly Father and each other like brothers and sisters. Sometimes the church is called "mother church" so it's particularly good to remember we are part of it on this special day.

So we have our own family tree and we have our family of God tree and today we want to thank our mums and those who care for us and our church family for helping both trees to grow well.

### **Bible Verse**

**Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**

**1 John 4:21**

*Explain that the verse is talking about their church family not just their own family.*

Suggested actions:

**Anyone who loves God**

*Point to self, then clap hands upwards*

**must also love their brother and sister.**

*Point to and clap each other and the congregation*

**1 John 4:21**

*Make "book" with open hands*

*This could be used in a family service. The children say the verse with the actions and then teach it to the congregation.*

### **Active Prayer**

God our heavenly Father,  
help us to grow our families well  
by staying close to you  
like branches joined to the tree.  
*Children raise arms high like branches*

Help us to grow our families well  
by staying close to each other  
like leaves clustered on the branch.  
*Children move close together, raise arms*

*and cross hands to make leaf shapes*  
Help us to grow our church family well

by staying close to you and each other  
so we can be rooted in your love  
and share our faith together.  
*Children raise arms high, then move close together*  
*Crouch and point down, then point to everyone*



*This can be used as a prayer in their groups but could also be used in a family service. Either have one person to read the prayer or the words on a screen for all to read.*

## **Thank You Song**

Thank you Lord for those who care  
Thank you Lord for those who care  
Thank you Lord for those who care  
for our family.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord  
for our family.

We care for our church family  
We care for our church family  
We care for our church family  
and they care for us.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord!  
Alleluia, praise the Lord  
for our family.

*Original song by Diane Davis Andrew;  
1971, 1975 Celebration/Kingsway's Thankyou Music (words adapted)*

## **Activities**

Children can plant a bulb in a container as a gift for mothers and carers, which they can then grow together at home.  
If numbers allow, these can also be given to the rest of the congregation as a gift from the children to their church family. If this isn't feasible a small card, gift of chocolate or other token can be given out.

.....

Invite one or two of your church family to share with the children what it means to them to be part of this family. Choose people of different ages and life circumstances.

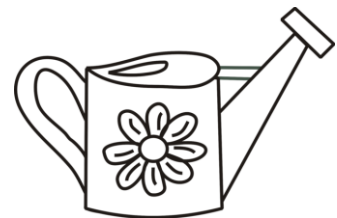
.....

Play a version of “Simon says” - “Our family grows well by....” choosing things which either do or don’t help our family, or family of God, to grow well e.g. being kind, helping each other, listening to someone, hogging the tv remote control, arguing....

For attributes that are positive children can make a “thumbs up” for those which are negative, “thumbs down” or sit down. With older children they may like to take turns to suggest different attributes.

.....

Make “Thank you” cards for mums and carers by decorating the watering can with images and words to show how they care for their family. You could also have alternative cards for the church family.



*Find the “Thank you” card template in the **Children’s Resources for Mothering Sunday** resource on the Mothers’ Union website*  
[www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday](http://www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday)

.....

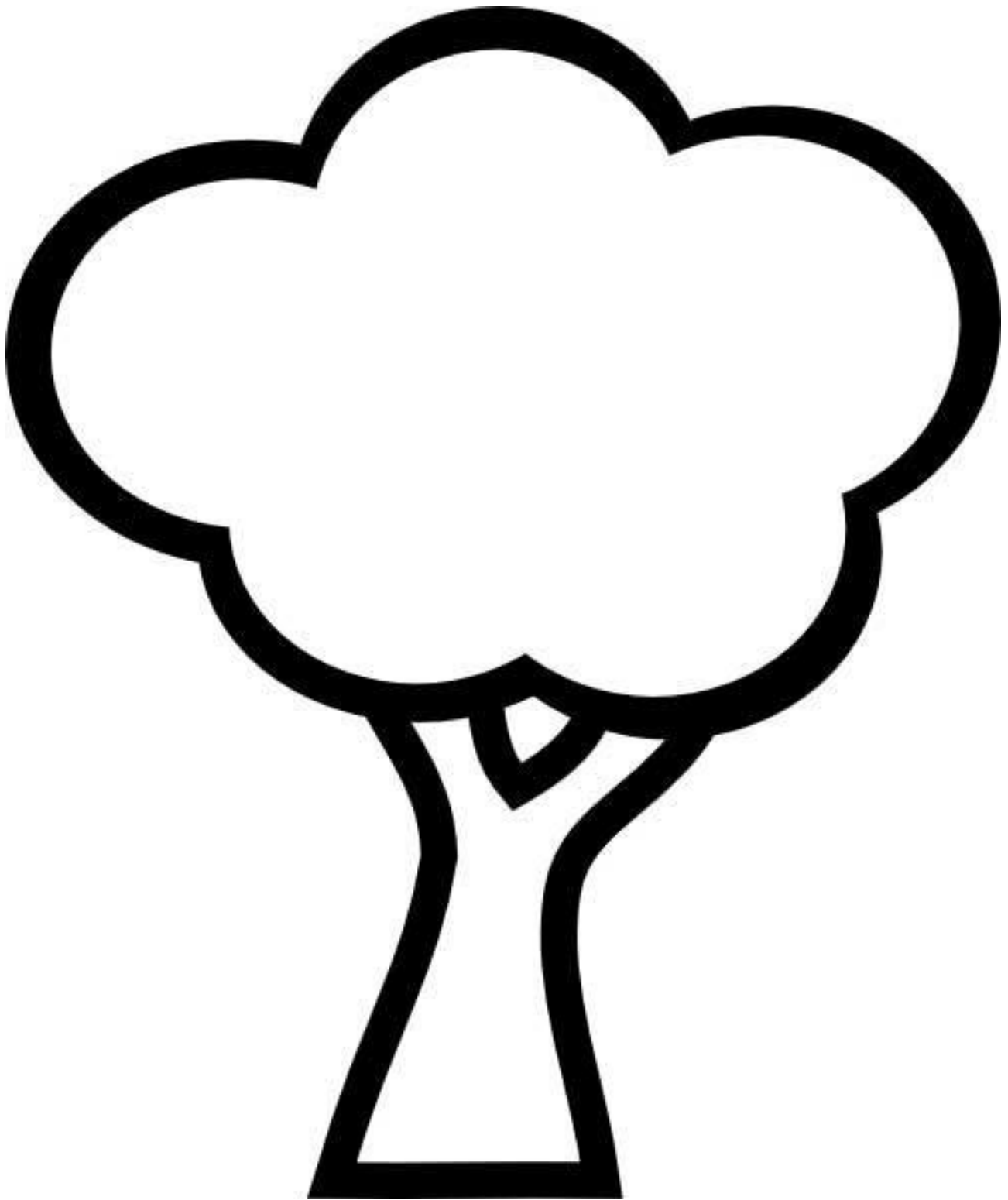
Provide an outline of a tree (see template below) for them to draw a picture of, or write the names of those who belong to their family. Encourage them to include members of their extended family and people who are like family to them. On the trunk they could write “God loves our family” or for older children a prayer for their family.

*Further Mothering Sunday resources can be found on the Mothers’ Union website*

[www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday](http://www.mothersunion.org/MotheringSunday)







# Mothers' Union Liturgy

## for Mothering Sunday 2018

**Theme: Called to Mother in a Broken World**

*(Give people a token, e.g. a stone or ribbon, as they come in)*

### The Gathering

*Please stand as the ministers enter the church*

*A minister greets the people with these words*

The Lord be with you  
*All* And also with you.

### Welcome

*Specific words of welcome to the community can be said here  
by the president or minister*

### 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.

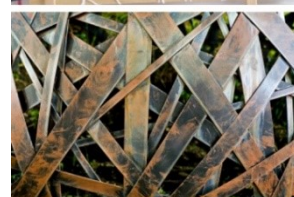
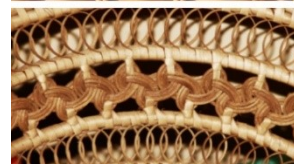
*All* Amen

*Hymn or song maybe be sung here*

### 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.*



## *Space for reflection*

### **Prayer of Penitence**

We have failed to nurture the needy,

*All*    **Lord, have mercy.**

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

*All*    **Christ, have mercy.**

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

*All*    **Lord, have mercy.**

### **Authorised Absolution**

*The president says*

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.

*All*    **Amen**

### **Collect**

*Either of the following may be used*

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.

*All*    **Amen**

*(or)*

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

## *Liturgy of the Word*

### **Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 2.1-10

*The following introduction to the reading may be said*

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



*Invite the children to come to the front and teach them how to make a 'basket' with their fingers. Ask them to show their parents/carers how to do this, either with their own hands, or by adult and child linking fingers. The 'hand-basket' is a symbol of the way in which adult*

*and child care for each other.*

*Hymn or song maybe sung here*

### **Gospel Reading**

John 19.25b-27

*The following introduction to the reading may be said*

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.

### **Sermon**

#### ***Ideas for talks and sermons***

We've put together some different ways to express the ideas and images that the liturgy in the service intends to deliver.

*You may need:*

A basket – preferably wicker or woven.

*The ideas:*

We are one body because we all share in one bread:

- The symbolic gesture of the basket is to help members of the congregation to think of themselves as the individual strands that are woven together to make the basket. We are one body because we all share in one bread, Jesus.
- The basket can also be used as a symbol of God's loving embrace, His motherly love that holds and carries all in joy and sadness.

Entrusting the care of a child to another - Linking in with the Exodus reading:

- Linking in with the Exodus reading, there is an opportunity to use the basket to hold the image of a child being entrusted to another to care for them.
- A chance to recognise all who have and do show motherly love to a child, addressing all situations and also the pain of the loss of a child.

Motherly love has no boundaries, we are all family - Linking in with the Gospel reading:

- The basket can also assist in the commending of parental trust to another as Jesus did in his dying breaths. The passing of the basket, an interwoven gift of love, can hold all the worries and fears that difficult parenting decisions can bring.
- Jesus recognised that we are all brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers in the Christian life, love holds no boundaries and is woven into all.
- Love breaking through the pain that can be experienced in families.

### **Response action/activity**

*Explain the opportunity at the end of the service to tie a ribbon/leave a stone at the foot of the cross for mourning mother figures/lack of mothering we/others have experienced or as a prayer for those we would like to be surrounded by God's love today.*

### **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?

**All    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?

**All    We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All    This is our faith.**

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

*(or)*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All    Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*These Biddings should be supplemented with locally appropriate prayers*

We give thanks for the Church, our mother, who brought us to birth in the family of Christ, through the waters of baptism. We pray that all Christians will hear again God's call to mother those in need, and bring them home to God.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken-hearted.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. In particular, we pray for those who have lost a motherly presence, and for those who have never known a mother's love. May they find consolation in God, the one in whom every family on earth finds its home.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have loved us and nurtured us in faith. May we be bold to share what we have received.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us into the many mansions of the Father's home. May we learn from them to trust God's care and provision for us, all the days of our life and into our death.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**



## *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.

*All*    **And also with you.**

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. You may like to use your interlocking fingers again, or a simple handshake.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

### **Offertory**

*Hymn or song maybe sung here*

### **Eucharistic Prayer G**

The Lord be with you

*All*    **and also with you.**

*(or)*

The Lord is here.

*All*    **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

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:

**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.]**

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.*

*One of these four acclamations is used*

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

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

*(or)*

[Praise to you, Lord Jesus:]

**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*(or)*

[Christ is the bread of life:]

**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*(or)*

[Jesus Christ is Lord:]

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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:

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

*The priest may say*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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**

*The President breaks the consecrated 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 the on bread.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken*

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.

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president invites the people to communion*

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

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

### **Prayer After Communion**

*Activities/songs during communion to involve all ages.*

*E.g. a bunch of flowers (or another suitable token) given to each person as they return from communion. Ensure flowers for those who don't come up.*

*A cross is placed at one side of the church, with a basket/box beside it. People to be encouraged to leave the token they were given as they entered church (ribbon/stone) at the foot of cross as a symbol of one or more of the following:*

- In thanksgiving for those who have mothered them.*
- As a symbol of those they have failed to mother or who have failed to mother them.*
- As a symbol of those who have experienced disappointment in relation to their mother or being a mother.*

*Hymn or Song maybe sung here or during distribution of flowers and placing of tokens.*

*Either of these may be used*

Lord God,  
whose blessed Son our Saviour  
gave his back to the smiters  
and did not hide his face from shame:  
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time

with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(or)*

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*

### *Notices*

*We sit and listen to the notices*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us all to birth,  
strengthen us for daily life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, send us out to live and work for  
others.

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

*All* **Amen.**