

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

**First Reading:** Colossians 3: 12 - 17

**Gospel Reading:** John 3: 16-17

**Acclamation:**

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

**Gathering Prayer:**

Father God,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,  
for the special love they have for their children.

We thank you Jesus for your special care and comfort  
and the perfect love you have for us all.

Help us all to show your love to those who care for us,  
and to the people that we meet in our lives.

**Amen.**

**Psalm 34. 11-20**

<sup>11</sup> Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Which of you desires life,

and covets many days to enjoy good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil,

and your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> Depart from evil, and do good;

seek peace, and pursue it.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their cry.

<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD is against evildoers,

to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup> When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,

and rescues them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,

and saves the crushed in spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the LORD rescues them from them all.

<sup>20</sup> He keeps all their bones;

not one of them will be broken.

**Song:** Open the eyes of my heart

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm-zb-AH8Xc>

**Invitation to Confession:**

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others  
And our failure to love as Christ has loved us.  
*A moment of quiet reflection ...*

**Confession:**

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.  
We fail to live as your children  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good.  
We seek our own good.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.  
We ignore the cries of others.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution:**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore in us His image  
to the praise and glory of His name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Reading1: Colossians 3: 12 - 17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: John 3: 16-17**

'For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Talk:** Rev'd Ken  
(Click link) <https://youtu.be/2so9ggljtog>

**Song:** Bind us together Lord  
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHJzD46-qU>

**Affirmation of Faith:**

*Let us declare our faith in God.*

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

**Prayers of Intercession:**

*Please add names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place.*

Father of mercy and God of all consolation,  
turn your gaze towards us as we  
humbly lift our prayers to you, saying:  
Abide in our hearts

**Show us your love.**

We praise and glorify you  
for your steadfast love and the  
nurture of all your children.

Abide in our hearts

**Show us your love.**

We thank you for the body of your Church and  
we pray you will teach us how to console and  
cherish each other as followers of your beloved Son.

Abide in our hearts

**Show us your love.**

May the voices of all Christians  
be united as one voice,  
proclaiming a message of love and hope.

Abide in our hearts

**Show us your love.**

May your Spirit of Truth  
enrich our Bible reading and  
prayer with the light of your wisdom.  
Abide in our hearts  
**Show us your love.**

May the circle of your love  
close around those whose relationships are  
broken and in need of your healing.  
Abide in our hearts  
**Show us your love.**

May the light of Christ  
shine into the darkness of  
injustice and suffering.  
Abide in our hearts  
**Show us your love.**

Teach us to hold pain  
with the compassion and grace  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Abide in our hearts  
**Show us your love.**

May the faithful departed know the  
fulfilment of their hope as you receive them  
into your Kingdom to live with you forever and ever.  
Abide in our hearts  
**Show us your love.**

May you fill our hearts with the  
assurance that our prayers will rise up  
as a fragrant offering and be pleasing to you.

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

**The Collect:**

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. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer:**

As God's children, and heirs with Christ  
we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba,' Father;

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.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;  
pause for a moment to bring yourself and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** Who you say I am  
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjWvbV6ohVc>

**Closing Prayer:**

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.**

**Blessing:**

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.  
May Almighty God bless us,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

**Conclusion:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*As we come to the end of this service, we can fellowship with each other in Spirit,  
with tea, coffee and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*