

Sunday 19th March 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

Reading 1: Colossians 3: 12—17

Gospel: Luke 2: 33—35

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: 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

Song: (*click link*) Let all the World in Every Corner Sing https://youtu.be/f_NoW2Hz52w

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.

You call us to do good,

we seek our own good.

Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help.

We ignore the cry of others

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.

Reading 1: Colossians 3: 12—17 The New Life in Christ

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear 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. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let 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. ¹⁷And 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: Luke 2: 33—35 Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon[□] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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

Talk: *(click link)* <https://youtu.be/PFBUNC-wKsA>

Song: *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)* [https://youtu.be/ YFGzY_8li8](https://youtu.be/YFGzY_8li8)

We say together in faith.

The Creed

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 from the Anglican Church in Kenya:

The motto of the Mothers' Union in Kenya is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4L13). With this in mind, let us pray.

Gracious God, you are our perfect parent, giving unconditional love to us and all people.
As we give thanks for mothers today, we pray for parents across the world, that you would grant them strength and patience, wisdom and compassion.
May they reflect the love of Christ in caring for those around them.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, we pray for those for whom parenting is a challenge, whether through the stresses of lockdown, or illness, or lack of support; through conflict, or natural disaster, or poverty.
We ask that they might be given support, care and strength to persevere, and that they might know the value of all they do.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, we pray for the work of Five Talents and for the women they support in Kenya.
We ask that you would prosper their work, enabling women to grow in skills and confidence, to improve their own lives and those of their families and communities.
May they be encouraged by knowing the support of churches in this diocese.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, in love we bring before You all for whom this day brings sadness and pain: for those who have lost mothers and grandmothers; for mothers who have lost children; for those whose longing to be a mother is unfulfilled.
We pray that they might know the care and comfort of friends and family, and above all the consolation of your love.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, as your Son Jesus Christ was part of a human family, living and learning and growing with others, so we pray that in our families and communities we might live well together, learning and growing, caring and supporting.

Give us eyes to see those in need and hearts to reach out and help them.

Lord, in your mercy...

In a moment of quiet, we bring to mind all those who have been mother-figures in our own lives. We bring to you our thankfulness for their care. We ask for forgiveness where it is needed, and seek your healing where there is hurt. We pray for grace to follow the good example of those who have shown us love.

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

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

Lord's 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
and 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.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) In Christ Alone <https://youtu.be/ouGuG97I2RY>

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

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

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.