

**Welcome** to our telephone service on this Mothering Sunday

God says in Isaiah 66:13 *As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.*

**Hymn** For the beauty of the earth *by Folliot S Pierpoint*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glories of the sky;  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies  
Ref: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise
2. For the wonder of each hours, of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.  
Ref: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above. For all gentle thoughts and mild  
Ref: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given  
For that great, great love of thine; peace on earth and joy in heaven  
Ref: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

### **Confession and Absolution**

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city, on our city and in our homes

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness

Christ have mercy **Christ have mercy**

Lord Jesus you bring pardon and peace to sinners who turn in trust to you

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

And may God, the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

### **Readings**

Exodus 2:1-10

- 1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman,
- 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.
- 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.
- 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.
- 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it.
- 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.
- 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"
- 8 "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother.
- 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.
- 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

John 19:25b-27

- 25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
- 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"
- 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

### **Reflection**

In Exodus & John's gospel we read about two types of families - what we called a 'nuclear' family and an 'extended' family

- 1<sup>st</sup> there was Amram and Jocabed who were chosen by God to parent a deliverer for God's people, the Jews, who were hated by Pharaoh the king.

Pharaoh had made all the Jews in Egypt slaves - making bricks for a city he was building so while Amram was working at the brick kilns Jocabed was left to look after their two children Miriam and Aaron. Pharaoh, fearing the increasing population of Jews, forbade the birth of any more boys on pain of death. So when Amram and Jocabed had another baby (a boy) his mum had to be very careful in Exodus 2 the focus is on Jocabed, who was a caring mother. In oppressive times she secreted her baby in her house for 3mths, and later hid him in a reed basket floating it in the river Nile, surrounded by squarking Ibises! until he was discovered and then adopted by the king's daughter. End of story? No! Through the shrewdness of his older sister, Miriam, who volunteered their mum as a nurse, Moses was brought up by his mother. Jocabed was both a caring and creative mother - like God who 'works all things together for good to those who love him'

Praise God we can rest in his grace and rejoice in goodness just as a baby in its mother's arms.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in John 19 we read about Mary, the mother of our Lord, being brought into the family of the apostle John. From the cross, where Jesus died for our sins and where the foretold 'sword of suffering' prophesied by Simeon, would 'pierce' Mary's heart, Jesus re-organised his family by entrusting John with the care of his mother and his mother with care for John. Theirs became an extended family. A bit like families in Turkey, Syria and Ukraine, and troubled parts of the world

In church and community life today we have women in nuclear families who are the heart and soul of their family, loving their husbands and caring for their children. And today we thank God for our mothers

Then there are extended families. Like in Jn 19 where Mary became part of the 'give and take' of the apostle John's family. Scripture says God 'provides for' and 'puts the lonely in families' You are not alone, whoever you are

Today we thank God for all people who welcome single, lonely, bereaved women and children into their arms of love.

In such circumstances women (and men) care for those who are not their genetic children, but needy children and women in the new family of God. And we think of those single, childless, and bereaved women who open their hearts and homes as spiritual mothers. In fact Scripture urges us all in the family of Christ to be like caring mums

That's why St Paul says to the Colossian Church 3:12 as *God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other; forgive as the Lord forgave you; and over all these virtues put on love, (family love) which binds all together in perfect unity as members of one body (the family of God); for you were called to peace and thankfulness.*

Song Jesus put this song *By Graham Kendrick*

1. Jesus put this song into our hearts, Jesus put this song into our hearts.

It's a song of joy no-one can take away; Jesus put this song into our hearts.

2. Jesus taught us how to live in harmony, Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

Diff'rent faces, diff'rent races, he made us one. Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

3. Jesus taught us how to be a family, Jesus taught us how to be a family.

Loving one another with the love that he gives. Jesus taught us how to be a family.

4. Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing, Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,

Changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy. Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance.

Lai, lai, lai, lai .....

### Prayers

- Lets give thanks for our families - for our caring natural mothers, for spiritual/pastoral mothers, for our children and our extended family in the church in the words of our **Collect** for this Mothering Sunday

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 sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

- Let's pray for all lonely and bereaved mothers and people we know.

For the survivors of disasters and violence whose relationships and hopes have been smashed to pieces

- Pray for the church local and Jane's leadership; the church national with its inconsistencies about Marriage and same sex relationships & the use of Scripture; and the for the church international with countries separating from the CofE because of these compromises.

- For our communities unsettled by strikes, for our schools and teachers, for doctors & nurses and for all who work for our welfare

- For those who are sick and struggling in body, mind and spirit. Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

As the family of God we pray together **the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

**Song:** Bind us together Lord *By Bob Gillman*

*Ref:* Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together Lord, bind us together with love

1. There is only one God, there is only one King. There is only body, that is why we sing. *Ref:* Bind us ....

2. Made for the glory of God, purchased by his precious Son.

Born with the right to be clean, for Jesus the vict'ry has won. *Ref:* Bind us ....

3. You are the fam'ly of God, you are the promise divine.

You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine *Ref:* Bind us ....

### Blessing

May the love of the Father surround you, the presence of Jesus the Saviour fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you and .....

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you his peace **Amen**

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