

## **Mothering Sunday in the Bride Valley Churches 2020 A simple service for use at home.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving Lord,  
Fill us with your life-giving, joy-giving, peace-giving presence,  
that we may praise you now with our lips  
And all day long with our lives,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn:** For the beauty of the earth

*If you have a hymn book you may like to read or sing it, or go online, e.g. try*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb\\_EvQkHYyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb_EvQkHYyM)

### **Confession**

We recall the times when we fail to value the love of others and to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception,  
we fail to live as your children.  
You call us to do good,  
We seek our own good.

You hear us when we cry for help, we ignore the cries of others.  
May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Collect for Today**

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.

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

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Thought for the day**

We find ourselves in very strange circumstances this Mothering Sunday. Many will find themselves separated from families, friends and neighbours. Many will be anxious about loved ones, health, work or businesses, financial pressures, physical needs, social needs and much else besides.

It's a testing time, a time when we need each other more and more. When the work of mothering becomes even more the work of all of us. Looking after friend and stranger, as if they were a mother or child of our own.

It's easy to get so focused on our own needs that we neglect others, but already people are pulling together, organising support networks or just extending offers of help on an individual basis. The qualities that St Paul speaks of in his letter to the Colossians are showing through amidst the panic buying and fear. Paul also encourages us to find strength in prayer and discover afresh the love of God to sustain us and all life.

Finally, take care not to overlook the shortest sentence in this reading: "And be thankful." Give thanks for the love, kindness and compassion that you are able to show to others, and that you have received from others.

## **Prayers**

Eternal God, you are constant with your people.

Like a mother you draw all your children to your heart. Guide us in the ways of truth that we may rejoice in your bountiful goodness.

Holy God, your presence is always before us. We give thanks for all who have nurtured us and helped us grow in faith and trust. Increase your Church in hope and courage to proclaim your love.

God our Father and Mother, you allow us to share in your creative purpose. Sustain and keep all parents and children, that through the love that is shared our lives may be blessed. Be with all for whom this day brings pain and regret to the fore. Transform us by your embrace.

God our helper and protector, in times of plenty and need, you cradle our life in your hands. We entrust to your care all in any kind of need at this difficult time. Encircle them with your love and keep them ever within your tender mercy.

## **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 those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

**Hymn** - Make me a channel of your peace

*If you have a hymn book you may like to read or sing it, or go online, e.g. try*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>*

### **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.**

**A SIMPLE ACT OF SOLIDARITY** The archbishops have called for a National Day of Prayer and Action today on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March. In particular, they ask everyone to place a lighted candle in a window at 7pm to symbolise the light of Christ shining in our homes.