

**Bride Valley Benefice**  
**Service for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday**

**Welcome** everyone, wherever you are, to our Mothering Sunday service on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

*As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.*

(Isa 66:13)

**PRAYER:** Thank you Lord for your tender heart of love. As we come now to worship you, surround us with your grace and fill us with your Spirit. We ask this in the wonderful name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

**HYMN:** *For the beauty of the earth*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
or 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 joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child  
friends on earth and friends above, pleasures pure and undefiled:

*Ref:* Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

*Folliott Pierpoint (1835-1917) CCLI Licence No. 2370586*

**CONFESSION** In Lent we call to mind the **10 Commandments** and confess our shortcomings. Hear the commandments which God has given to his people and examine your hearts:

I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other  
gods before me

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not make for yourselves any idol

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord  
your God

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

Honour your father and your mother

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not commit murder

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not commit adultery

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not steal

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not bear false witness against your  
neighbour

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

You shall not covet anything which belongs to  
your neighbour

**Amen, Lord have mercy**

**THE ABSOLUTION** is found in our **COLLECT** for today

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness, we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** 1Samuel chapter 1v20

20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

23 And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying

to the LORD.

27 "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

28 "Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshipped the LORD there.

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

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:** 2 Corinthians chapter 1v3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,  
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

7 And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

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

**GOSPEL READING** is from John 19: 25-27

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

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

**Today's Lenten REFLECTION is given us by Bishop Andrew**

**HYMN**

Jesus good above all other, gentle child of gentle mother,  
in a stable born our brother, give us grace to persevere

Jesus for thy people dying, risen Master, death defying,  
Lord of heav'n, thy grace supplying, keep us to thy presence near.

*Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) CCLI Licence No. 2370586*

**DECLARATION**

*Let us declare our faith in God the 'one in three and the three in one', saying together*

We believe in God the Father, who created all things;  
**for by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

**for with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit.

**The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Amen**

**PRAYERS:** To the phrase 'God of love' we respond '**Hear our prayer**'

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your unfailing love. Like a mother you care, guide and watch over us, all our days

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We all have parents, whether they've been good or bad, and in the silence we reflect on their influence. Gracious God, whether life has been hard or easy, we are 'blessed' to be single, married, with or without children. We give you thanks in all things, and ask that we may respect others in different circumstances than our own

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We pray for those whose families are problematical, for those who suffer from domestic abuse, and those who counsel and care for the exploited and ill-used

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We praise you for your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church that permeates time and space, and for those churches to which we belong. We praise you for the support and care that we get and can give in the family of God.

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

How lovely it is to have, or to be, a comforting mother when facing sickness. We pray for all those struggling with health issues, and those who care for us

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We thank you for the good things that we learnt at our mother's knee. We pray for those who teach us and our children at home, in church, at school, and in places of higher education

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who comfort the bereaved and dying, and especially people needing the comfort of Christ who are sharing in our service today

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the good news of Jesus who said *Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest*; and then went out, suffered, died, and rose for us to give us a sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life

God of love                      **hear our prayer**

*We gather all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us*

**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.  
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**

## **THE BLESSING**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, and those whom we love and pray for this day and for evermore. **Amen**

## **HYMN**

Almighty God, with a mother's heart, who at our birth gave life its start,  
For all your care known in our home; We give you thanks today.

You're with us, loving Lord, always; our guide, protector, all our days  
Until we come to heaven's home, we'll give you thanks each day.

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