



All Saints Church, Hertford

Family Service for Mothering Sunday 14th March 2021

Welcome

Soraia:

Welcome to this Mothering Sunday Service from All Saints Church on Zoom. Traditionally today is a time to celebrate with our mother churches, those people and places which have nurtured our lives and faith. It is also a day when we think about our mothers but for many this time is painful yet in Jesus Christ, we are given both comfort and family.

We have come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have cared for us, and to offer ourselves to look after and help others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, where we have failed to care for each other.

Prayer of Preparation

Isabel:

Loving, Father, as a mother hen gathers her chicks, so you draw the whole human family to yourself. Bring us together now, Lord, that we may today and forever be united under your wing in all our sorrows and joys.

Amen

Let us always remember that Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11.28*

Prayer of Penitence

Soraia:

Come let us return to the Lord and say:

Soraia leads us all saying

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Soraia:

Father God, you forgive everyone who repents, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, and help us to live in love and peace, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Emma:

Dear God,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,
and for all they do to help us to grow up well.

We thank you that they love us and show us
how to learn to stand on our own two feet.

We pray that mums will feel really special today;
that they will know how much we love them
and how much you love them too.

Most of all, we thank you, God,
that you are our heavenly parent
who loves us and helps us all to grow well
and make the very best of life. **Amen**

Soraia announces the **Hymn: Jesus put this song into my heart**

- 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,
Different faces, different 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.

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

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The Collect for Mothering Sunday

Isabel:

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**

Bible readings

Soraia:

We're going to hear first about a baby called Moses. He was born at a time
when it was difficult for his mother to look after him and so she made a plan to

keep him safe. Listen carefully and see if you can work out how many people helped to look after baby Moses.

Ollie: **Moses: Exodus 2:1-10**

A man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe, and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river.

The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him. The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave woman to get it. The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" "Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. The princess told the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him. Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

Soraia:

How many people helped to look after baby Moses?

Hold up your fingers (4, mother, sister, King's daughter, slave.)

Now, we're now going to hear about a time when Jesus was a boy of twelve. He was old enough to do lots of things by himself, unlike baby Moses, but he still needed people to help him in some ways. Listen carefully and see if you can work out who helped to look after him and what he did by himself.

James: **Jesus the boy: Luke 2:41-52**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand his answer.

So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and people.

Soraia:

How many looked after Jesus (*4 Parents, relatives and friends, teachers in the temple.*)

Is there a Mum with their baby? Ask her what things she needs to do to care for her baby e.g. feeding, changing, carrying around. If the baby is a few months old, ask her what the baby is now able to do that they couldn't when new-born e.g. sit up, eat solid food, hold a spoon etc.

Soraia:

Can you remember when you couldn't do something and needed someone to help - perhaps fix a computer problem, someone to translate when you are in a foreign country or someone to teach you an exercise?

We're so grateful and thank God for our mums and everyone who helps us to grow up well so we can stand on our own two feet as we get older.

Soraia announces the **Hymn: Love Divine**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Soraia:

I want to tell you about Mother Teresa, a greatly admired and loved nun, who shared God's love in her care for the poorest and most rejected people in Calcutta. Mother Teresa was born in 1910 in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. Her birth name was Agnes. Her father died when she was only eight and so she was looked after by her mother. Agnes grew up a Roman Catholic and decided to devote her life to God at a very early age and when she was 18, Agnes joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary to India.

Before she could go to India she had to learn English, so she spent a year in Ireland learning to speak English. A year later, Agnes began her missionary work in Darjeeling, India. She learned the local language, Bengali, and taught at the local school. In 1931, she took her vows as a nun and chose the name Teresa. She taught for many years in India becoming the headmistress at a school in eastern Calcutta.

When she was 36 years old, Mother Teresa felt called by God to help the poor of India. She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and needy. This wasn't an easy task in 1948 India. She had very little support and, while trying to feed and help the poorest of the poor, she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food.

In 1950, Mother Teresa formed a group called the Missionaries of Charity. She described their purpose as an organisation that would take care of "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved and uncared for".

When Mother Teresa first started the Missionaries of Charity there were only 13 members. Today, the group has over 4,000 members who care for people all over the world. Mother Teresa felt that she saw Jesus in the very poorest and said all she wanted to do was something beautiful for God. She won the Nobel prize for her work but insisted that the banquet money was spent on the poor and not on a party to celebrate her!

She said: 'yesterday is gone, tomorrow hasn't yet come, we have only today so let's begin!'

Anthem For the beauty of the earth Rutter

James leads us in saying

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.**

Soraia:

We've thought about the different ways we need our Mums and those who care for us to help us so that we can stand on our own two feet, and now we want to say thank you to them.

It's good to say thank you to people who care for us. It's also good to say thank you to God for giving us all we need to live and grow well and stand on our own two feet.

Thank you, God, for giving what we need to grow *(Thank You!)*

Soraia announces the **Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace**

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O master, grant that I may never seek,
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there' is darkness, only light.
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Prayers

Ollie:

As children of a loving God who always listens,
let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called your children. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.

James:

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

Bless all those who would have loved to have a family but could not and comfort those who mourn.

Ollie:

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church, help us to make sure that it can be a home for everyone; that the lonely may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

James:

Loving Father, protect all those who may catch the coronavirus, give courage to everyone who is fearful whether for themselves or loved ones and help us all to keep each other safe and support one another and particularly those who are ill and frail at this time.

Loving God, accept our prayers;
through them transform us and all creation.
We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

*Soraia announces the Final **Hymn: Tell out, my soul***

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from *Luke 1 vs46-55*

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Blessing

Soraia:

Let us go from here rejoicing
that God loves us and
gives us all we need for life.
As the children of God
we take his love into the world
that others may also
have fullness of life
as part of his family. **Amen**

Organ: All you need is Love - Ayres