

# Church Alive

## Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

### Mothering Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> March



(For the Zoom service: *Welcome to Zoom Church Alive.*

*You might like to have a drink and snack and a candle and matches/lighter for the service.*

*We will meet at 11am and start the service at 11.05am. Please use MUTE on your computer at 11.05am for the service, especially wherever we are singing together, except in the sections where marked. If you'd like to say something at other times, please 'raise your hand' (you will find this in the Participants section) or type it in under 'chat' and it will appear on the screen. )*

Today we celebrate Mothering Sunday. We reflect on the qualities of caring and nurturing and give thanks for all those who have nurtured and cared for us in our lives. Traditionally it was the Sunday every year when people visited their 'mother church', their home church or the nearest cathedral. Today is a good day to reflect on feminine imagery for God which we find in the Bible. Julian of Norwich, a spiritual writer from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, wrote 'as truly as God is our Father, so also is God our Mother'.

**Opening Song:** Come and Celebrate <https://youtu.be/z0VqfpiLFB0>

#### **Gathering Responses:**

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

We look at our world in spring

**And we praise you, God, for signs of new life.**

We look at those who love us

**and we praise you, God, for friends and family.**

We look at our church family around us

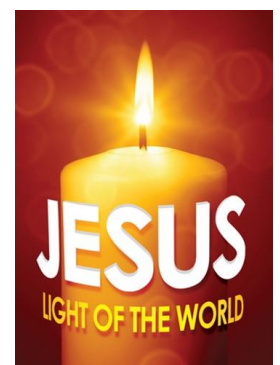
**and we praise you, God, that you are with us  
in prayers and readings, in thoughts and words,  
in actions and laughter and song.**

Bless this morning as we share it with you, **Amen.**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

*If you are able, and it is safe to do so, you might like to light a candle at this point as well and hold up your candle as we say our prayer together.*

**All: Lord, we light this candle,  
to remind us that you are the light of the world.  
As we gather together in spirit,  
make our voices ready to sing your praise;  
our hearts open to receive your love  
and our minds alive to your Spirit.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



### **We seek God's healing and forgiveness:**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We have failed to nurture the needy,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to make space in our lives for the broken-hearted.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness**

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins,  
and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Thanksgiving:** Who are the people who have nurtured and cared for you over the years that you would like to say thank you to God for?

### **Bible Readings:**

John 19:25b-27

<sup>25</sup> Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son."

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. <sup>14</sup> And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

### **On Zoom - Talk**

**At Home - please use the resources on the separate sheet.**

Song: For the Beauty <https://youtu.be/8RE9S5Jhl8E>

### **Prayers**

*(On zoom - We will play a very short piece of music, during which you can add your prayers to the chat and then they will be included in the prayer time).*

*Today we might pray for:*

*Those who have cared for and nurtured us, giving thanks for them.*

*Those who find today difficult, for those who are separated from their mother or whose mother has died, for those who long to have children but are unable to, for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.*

*The church, our mother and for our church family, that we may care for and nurture each other.*

*Our world leaders and our government, for wisdom in their decision making.*

*Those who are sick and those who feel anxious, lonely or isolated.*

*The souls of those who have died and for those grieving.*

**All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**All: 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.  
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 for ever.  
Amen.**

**Song:** Tell Out My Soul <https://youtu.be/H-sSWPmKVbw>

### **Sending Out Prayer and Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us all to birth, strengthen us for daily life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs, sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, send us out to live and work for others.

*And the blessing ...*

**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*(On zoom - We share the peace with each other using sign language*

***Fellowship time – unmute. We will go around the group so that everyone has a chance to let us know how they are and any news they want to share. )***