**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Mothering Sunday**

**14th March 2021**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

*Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/xVyN7Qi7NHs*

Gathering:  *Alan Tiltman*

God our Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, lived in a family at Nazareth.

As we meet together now, help us to learn more about what it is to love our families and friends as you love us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord**, Amen**

A prayer of confession*: Phil Davies*

Heavenly Father, parent of us all, we know we don’t always treat each other as you want us to.

Lord God, forgive us; **and help us to be more loving.**

There are times when we insist on getting our own way despite what others feel.

Lord God, forgive us; **and help us to be more loving.**

Sometimes we increase the tension when we ought to seek peace, or say things that hurt one another.

Lord God, forgive us; **and help us to be more loving.**

God has loved us, sending his Son Jesus to show us the true meaning of forgiveness.

Lord God, forgive us; **and help us to be more loving. Amen.**

*Silence*

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect: *Jill Bottomley*

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**

Old Testament reading: *Cerys Bennett*

*Exodus 2:1-10*

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of Praise: *John Delieu*

Lord, you are father and mother to us, an ever-loving parent, more faithful than we can imagine. Bless our family relationships.

Help us to reflect your love in the way we love our parents, our children, our brothers and sisters and all with whom we live.

Great God, father and mother, ever-loving parent, we praise and honour you. We love and trust you. Surround us and those we care for with your everlasting love. **Amen.**

Gospel: *Helen Probin*

*Luke 2:33-35*

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Address: *Rev Kate*

Prayers of intercession**:** *Dawn Jones*

We bring our cares and concerns, our prayers for the world, and for all God’s people before God.

Loving God of the ages, like a mother you brought the world to birth, and we rejoice that we are part of that creation. Help us to care for your earth in all its complex beauty, and to nurture our children’s generation in that sacred duty.

You offer us life in abundance. **Help us to live as your children.**

We remember the mothers around us, and the blessings they give to their families, and we pray for those who find it hard to cope. We think of all who offer care and nurture to others.

You offer us life in abundance. **Help us to live as your children.**

We pray for all parents who, like Mary, have lost their children before their time. Grant your blessing of peace in times of grief, your comfort in places of sorrow.

You offer us life in abundance. **Help us to live as your children.**

God who is mother and father to us, receive the prayers we offer in the name of Jesus, son of Mary, who gave up his life for the sake of your love, and is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Silence*

We pray together as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Heather*

*Heather*

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

The Blessing:

Father in heaven, bless all mothers and those who look after us in our daily lives. Make us grateful for their kindness and thankful for their care. Help us to respond to them in loving obedience, following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Hymn: Angel voices ever singing (mute!)* *https://youtu.be/YI7kSoBAQUU*

May the God of peace bring you every blessing, with which to serve him and make his will known through Jesus Christ, to whom be all glory and honour, now and for ever more. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen**