

Douglas Union with Frankfield
Mothering Sunday
22 March 2020

A SHORT SERVICE TO BE USED AT HOME

Prepared by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson

Sentence

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord. (*Isaiah 66:13*)

Introduction

For many years the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been observed as Mothering Sunday. Two customs lie behind it; young people who worked away from home were allowed to visit their mothers on this day, often presenting her with a bunch of flowers; also people were encouraged to worship in their 'Mother Church', perhaps the local cathedral or main church in the town. It was a Sunday midway through Lent when the usual Lenten disciplines could be relaxed. So, on this day we give thanks to God for the Church which, like a mother nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We also give thanks for our own human mothers and for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in this parish.

O Lord open our lips

And our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God make speed to save us

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord

The Lord's name be praised.

The Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

Strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exodus 2: 1-10 (*Moses is hidden in a basket among the reeds and found by Pharaoh's daughter*)

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 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."

Psalm 127: 1-4

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord keeps the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early and go so late to rest,
eating the bread of toil,
for he gives his beloved sleep.

Children are a heritage from the Lord
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

John 19: 25-27 (*Mary and the disciple at the foot of the cross*)

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple

whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Reflection by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson *(attached separately to the email)*

Prayers and Thanksgivings *(These may be read privately, or you can join in prayer with Adrian by opening the prayer attachment with the email)*

A Thanksgiving for mothers and for family life.

We praise you O Lord and bring you thanks today for giving us others to share in our lives:

For parents and the love which brought us to birth;

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us.

For fathers who have loved and supported us,

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home.

For other relatives and friends who have been with us in our hopes and joys and times of sadness.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen.

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

A Prayer for the world at this time.

Almighty and all-loving God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

we pray to you through Christ the Healer

for those who suffer from the coronavirus and covid-19

in Ireland and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,

skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,

comfort to everyone in distress

and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown. Amen.

A Prayer for peace and strength

Dear Lord, you are the maker of heaven and earth. As we face the Coronavirus pandemic help us to lift our eyes to you. May your peace be with those who are feeling anxious, your strength be with those working to keep others safe, your comfort be with those who are grieving. May your wisdom light the way for those making decisions, your healing be upon those who are unwell, your hope fill those who are fearful of the future and may your compassion prompt us to love our neighbours. Keep us from harm, watch over our coming and going, both now and for evermore. Amen.

A Thanksgiving for the Church (*Book of Common Prayer 2004 – p. 153*)

Almighty God, we praise you for the blessings brought to the world through your Church. We bless you for the grace of the sacraments, for our fellowship in Christ with you and with each other, for the teaching of the Scriptures, and for the preaching of your word. We thank you for the holy example of your saints, for your faithful servants departed this life, and for the memory and example of all that has been true and good in their lives. Number us with them in the company of the redeemed in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering all our prayers and praise into one, let us pray the prayer of God's family, as our Saviour Christ has taught us and say:

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, inspire us to live and work for others.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.