

Morning Praise 15th March 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Welcome, Notices

Acclamation

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

Opening Prayer:

**Faithful One, whose Word is life,
Come with saving power
To free our praise,
Inspire our prayer
And shape our lives
For the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Over and around us lies:**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

**For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Sun and moon and stars of light:**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,**

**Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
For all gentle thoughts and mild:**

***Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.***

**For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:**

***Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.***

Folliett S Pierpoint (1835-1917) adapted by John Rutter

Lent Liturgy:

Introduction

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, our symbol is the cup of God's wrath that Jesus was willing to drink out of obedience to his heavenly father and his love for us.

Bible Reading:

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

"Sit here while I pray". He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "Everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will".

(Mark 14:32-36)

A cup is brought forward and placed at the foot of the Lenten Cross.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you that you drank the cup of suffering on our behalf. Help us to open our hearts to receive your love and all the benefits of your passion.

Amen

A Song of St Anselm

- 1 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
- 2 Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
- 3 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
- 4 Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
- 5 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
- 6 Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
- 7 **Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.**
- 8 **In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.**

from Anselm of Canterbury

Confession

[These words not on screen: Relationships can be tricky. Getting on with people isn't always easy. In family life too, getting on with one another can be hard. Let's take a moment to ask God to forgive us for the things we have done or left undone which have hurt those we love.

Hold out your fists. Imagine holding all the hurtful words you have said, the angry things you have done, the selfish ways you've behaved. Imagine holding the things that you should have done and didn't do.

Now open your hands so that the palms of your hands face down towards the floor. Let go of those things and allow God to catch them and take them.

Finally, turn your hands over ready to receive and take hold of God's forgiveness and love.]

For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
for unfinished tasks
and unfulfilled hopes,
God of all time
forgive us
and help us
to lay down our burden of regret.

[silence]

We receive God's forgiveness:

May the God of love and mercy
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his kindness and love towards us,
and give us the hope of eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All Age Focus – Tammy

Song: Thank you for the love

**Thank you for the love that our Mums give to us each day;
Thank you for the help and the care that they bring our way.
Lord, we thank you for everything they do,
Show us how to help them too.**

**Show us how to live, teaching us to appreciate;
Show us how to live so that we don't infuriate.
Lord, we ask that in everything they do,
May our Mums be blessed by you.**

First Reading: Exodus 2: 1-10 (Leigh)

The Birth of Moses

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a

papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river-bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. 'This is one of the Hebrew babies,' she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?'

'Yes, go,' she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 19: 25-27 (*Leigh*)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: (*Julie*)

Song: Today we bring our thankful hearts

**Today we bring our thankful hearts,
For all a mothering love imparts:
For those who gave us life and breath,
For love that's stronger far than death.**

**For kindness, patience, warmth and care,
For each embrace, each tear, each prayer,**

**Each word of peace, each healing touch,
These simple gifts which mean so much.**

**We look to you, our mothering Lord,
Who knows love's cost, and love's reward,
Your passion fiercer than the grave,
Love for the world you came to save.**

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Affirmation of Faith

**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.**

Intercessions, Collect and The Lord's Prayer *(Tammy)*

Responses

Lord, in your mercy;
Hear our prayer

Merciful Father:
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect for Mothering Sunday:

**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

The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

**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 forever. Amen.**

The Peace

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

God of love and faithfulness

***God of love and faithfulness,
from you all blessings spring,
for your many gifts of love
in gratitude we sing:***

For parents and for children,

For partners and for friends,
For all whose care enfolds us
With love that never ends.

*God of love and faithfulness,
from you all blessings spring,
for your many gifts of love
in gratitude we sing:*

For fellowship and friendship
For all we have to give,
For those who've shared our journey
And taught us how to live.

*God of love and faithfulness,
from you all blessings spring,
for your many gifts of love
in gratitude we sing*

For all who've shared our sorrow,
Walked with us in our pain,
Who've held our hand through darkness
And showed us light again.

*God of love and faithfulness,
from you all blessings spring,
for your many gifts of love
in gratitude we sing*

In sacrifice and service
Your love, O Lord, is shown,
Your outstretched wings enfold us
and bring us safely home.

*God of love and faithfulness,
from you all blessings spring,
for your many gifts of love
in gratitude we sing*

Offertory Prayer

God of life, saviour of the poor,
receive with this money
gratitude for your goodness,
penitence for our pride
and dedication to your service
in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

Opportunity for Sharing

Prayer for Mothers

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

For the care of mothers;
For their patience when tested;
For their love when tired;
For their hope when despairing;
For their service without limit;
Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn

(During which flowers are distributed)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing;
Changed our tears of sadness into tears of joy.
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance.**

La, la, la, la, la, la, etc.

Graham Kendrick © 1986 Make Way Music

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers:
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Blessing

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Refreshments at the back / prayer ministry at the front