

Sunday Worship at Home Lent 4 Mothering Sunday March 14th 2021

Opening Prayer:

Open our eyes to your presence Lord and open our hearts to your love. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ loves us:

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception, but we fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy

You call us to do good, but we seek our own good.

Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help, yet we ignore the cries of others.

Lord have mercy

May almighty God cleans you from sin and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name.

Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

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**

Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Reading.

Today's reading is appropriate for the day – Mothering Sunday, please note, it is not Mothers' day, that is a commercial element from across the pond!

Traditionally, on Mothering Sunday, people who worked away from home, on the land or in service, returned to their Mother Church at this time of year to spend time with their families and in their communities. We do not do that today, but it is still good for people think of their communities and their mothers at this time. I know not all of you reading this will be mothers, and many of you will have lost your mothers, but we can all “mother” others in some way, shape or form.

So what does our reading say to us this morning? Well much of it could have been written especially for this time as it speaks about communities and families loving and caring for each other. The first verse reminds us that we are loved, not only by family and friends, we

are also loved by God, with a love that is constant. I know I rely on him for support to carry me through difficult times. If we offer everything to God in prayer, it is amazing how it helps to relieve the burden we are carrying. Time spent with God in prayer is a comfort and it deepens our relationship at a time, especially at this time when we are denied close contact with our families, and our friends, both inside and outside of church. It is almost a year since we went into lockdown and the isolation that came with it, but within our own communities, we have heard many stories of the love, compassion, kindness and humility referred to in our reading. People have shopped for others, given lifts, collected prescriptions, or chatted over the garden wall. Many phone calls have been made and letters written, computers have been a blessing or a frustration. All these things, and more, have been done out of kindness and love, hopefully in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to the Father through him. Because if we do not do a good deed in the name of Christ and in a loving and mothering way, then we are not doing what Christ would have done. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and 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**

Be still and Pray: Heavenly Father, we are all children of your family. We pray for our mothers whether we can see them, or they are at peace with you. We give thanks for those who have loved and nurtured us in our lives and in our communities, and we give thanks for our church and all the people we miss seeing there. Lord, be with those who did not have the love of a mother and who feel lost and alone in the world. Pray for those suffering from sickness or anxiety that they may be comforted by knowing you love them. Remember those who have died recently, giving thanks for the lives they led and the memories left behind. Father God, help us to remain positive as we slowly edge away from the pain and isolation of the past year, help us to continue to show your love for us through the kindness we show to others. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil, For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen**

Conclusion & 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. and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen**

Reverend Irene