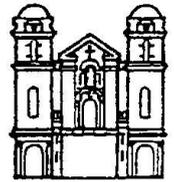


Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



Mothering Sunday

26 March 2017

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church and for Mary as the mother of Jesus. We remember that God cares for us like a mother and last, but not least, we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special thanksgiving. It is a day in Lent when flowers abound in all churches and when people are encouraged to share a time of refreshment in the penitential season.

Stand Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All **and also with you.**

All This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us pray: (*remain standing*)

Dear Lord,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,
and for the special love they have for their children.

We thank you Jesus for your special care and comfort,
and the perfect love you have for us all.

Help us all to show your love to those who care for us,
and to the people that we meet in our lives. **Amen.**

HYMN 192 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Sit Let us call to mind our shortcomings, our failure to value
the love of others.
Lord have mercy.
All **Lord have mercy.**

And our failure to love as Christ has loved us.
Lord have mercy.
All **Lord have mercy.**

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
We fail to live as your children.
Lord have mercy
All **Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.
Christ have mercy.
All **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.
We ignore the cry of others.
Lord have mercy.
All **Lord have mercy.**

THE ABSOLUTION *followed by*

THE COLLECT

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 your Son our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.

Sit **OLD TESTAMENT READING**
1 Samuel 2 vv 18-20
read by Lizzie Stapleton

HYMN 394 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

GOSPEL *remain standing*

Mark 8 vv 22-26

Sit

SERMON

The Very Reverend Dr Derek Hole

Stand

Let us tell out our faith

All

**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.**

Sit

THE PRAYERS *led by Jo Stapleton*

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries,
let us pray to our Father in heaven.

God of love,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called
children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes
that they may be places of love, security and truth.

God of love,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of
Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for
children; strengthen those families living under stress and
may your love be known where no human love is known.

God of love,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

God of love,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

God of love,
hear our prayer. Amen.

Stand **THE PEACE**

May the peace of God rule in our hearts,
in our homes, in our mother country
and among the entire human family.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 104 For the beauty of the earth

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *remain standing*

All The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you
thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord

And today we thank you for human life.
that love shown by parents and especially by mothers,
which continues to forgive regardless of
weakness and failure. We thank you for your love
which is stronger than death and embraces
all which you have created.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Choir Holy, holy, holy Lord.....
Blessed is he who comes...

Sit How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.
On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Send down your Holy Spirit that these gifts
of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood
of Christ. Unite us with him for ever and bring us with
the whole creation to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

With the whole family of God throughout the world,
in faith and trust we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in one bread.**

Choir O Lamb of God.....

Draw near with faith...
*Move forward at the direction of the Wardens
to receive communion or a blessing.*

Choir The Lord you and keep you

Sit **Hymn 494 tune 67 (Rockingham) Lord of the home**

All **Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sit **BLESSING OF FLOWERS**

O God, bless these flowers.
May they remind us how much
our mothers have done for us;
may they remind our mothers that we love them;
and may they remind us all
that God cares for each one of us,
because we are all God's children. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the love of the Father fill our hearts.
May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit bind us together in love,
in our families and communities
And may the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with you always. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN

Tune: Ellacombe

Our Father God in heaven
on whom the world depends,
to you let praise be given
for families and friends;
for parents, sisters, brothers,
a home where love belongs,
but on this day for mothers
we bring our thankful songs.

What wealth of God's bestowing
for all the world to share!
What strength of heart outgoing
to children everywhere!
our deepest joys and sorrows
a mother's pain must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.

How well we know the story
that tells of Jesus' birth,
the Lord of heaven's glory
become a child of earth;
a helpless infant sleeping,
yet King of realms above,
who finds in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,
to you we lift our prayer,
that every child be given
such tenderness and care,
where life is all for others,
where love your love displays;
for God's good gift of mothers
let earth unite in praise.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary *Please be aware of those remaining to listen.*