

**The Parishes of Clent and Hagley**

***A form of worship for us to use on  
Mothering Sunday***

22 March 2020

We are unable to gather together to worship today  
because of coronavirus.  
This is a form of worship we can all use at home.  
I shall be using this myself at 10.30 am.

**A call to worship and an Opening Prayer**

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.

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Hymn                    Tell out my soul

- this can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ji4y9Q-K0>

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

## A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

God of love,  
your Son was given the love and support of a human family  
and you are with us throughout our lives;  
so feed us with our daily bread  
that we shall only hunger for what is right and just.  
We ask this through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

Thank you, loving God, for those with whom we share our lives.

For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers and others, who have cherished and nurtured us:  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers and others, who have loved and supported us,  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers and others, with whom we have shared our home:  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

For other relatives and friends,  
who have been with us in our hopes and joys  
and in times of sadness:  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus,  
and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven:  
**we praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.**

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

## A New Testament 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 also

must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves 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 in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hymn                      Give thanks with a grateful heart

- this can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXBxlmesl10>

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks . . .

## Asking for God's Forgiveness

Heavenly Father 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 which hurt one another.

Lord God, forgive us;

**and help us to be more loving.**

You sent your Son Jesus to show us the true meaning of forgiveness

Lord God, forgive us;

**and help us to be more loving.**

May God forgive us,

and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit,  
all our days. Amen.

## A Gospel Reading

Luke 2.33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.

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.'

## A Reflection for Mothering Sunday

Our Gospel reading tells part of the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple. Simeon, who has waited a long time for the Christ child to come, now blesses Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus, and then speaks directly to Mary. There are four short phrases from what he says that can speak to us on this Mothering Sunday.

### **'This child is destined for the falling and rising of many'**

In his adult ministry Jesus mixed with those who felt they did not matter to anyone. They were considered unimportant, external to society. He helped such people to know they were accepted by God and of great value. This is still true today. Jesus will accept us as we are because everyone is special to God. A question we might like to ask ourselves is “Do we do likewise?”.

### **' . . .a sign that will be opposed'**

Jesus was hated and opposed by the leaders of the day. This is what Simeon is foretelling here. No parent likes the thought that their child will be unpopular, but sometimes people have to stand up for what is right. Do we stand up for what is right – or stand beside others who do the same?

### **'the inner thoughts of many will be revealed'**

Lots of parenting seems to be about external activities – about all the myriad of things that have to be done as a child is born and grows up. But what goes on inside a child is just as important. Modern research into human development reveals just how important the experience of being loved is to the development of the brain. The Gospel writers didn't know the science, but they did know what they saw. The Bible is full of writings about the importance of love, and the importance of God's love, often using those beautiful metaphors of parent and child. Our inner thoughts matter to each other and God knows them. In his time in prayer with his heavenly Father, Jesus showed us how important that is.

## **'a sword will pierce your own soul too.'**

These are disturbing words for anyone to hear. We don't know what Mary made of them, but because we know the whole story, we know that these words of Simeon turned out to be true. But we also know that Mary knew the joy of the resurrection on the third day.

There is no pain-free life. Parenting is no exception – it's not a pain-free process either. But in sending his Son to live a human life and die on the cross, God shows us that he understands this and that he suffers beside us. In the resurrection he shows, too, that Jesus has conquered sin and death and has opened the way to new life for everyone. At the present time it's especially important for us to hear that message, and to rejoice in what God has done for us.

Hymn      Make me a channel of your peace

- this can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daGWdbrSGBM>

Make me a channel of your peace  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace.  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## Prayers

### **For mothers and those who care for us**

Lord Jesus, you know well the blessings an earthly home can bring: receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years.

Hear our prayers for mothers and those who care for others, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but loved as you yourself love us.

Bless and keep them all,  
for your love's sake.

Amen.

### **For those in need**

Remember, O Lord, all those in need:  
people with no good food or clothing,  
those who have no home, or who are unable to find work,  
those who have neither family nor friends,  
and those who are unwell or bereaved.

Bless those who help them  
and bring us all to trust in you.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

### **During the Coronavirus Crisis**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
that we may all rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

## **For neighbourliness**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 for ever. Amen.

Hymn                      Now thank we all our God

- this can be found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltfKjxkXhMk>

Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## Blessing

May God the Father keep us in his care.  
May the Lord Jesus Christ be our constant friend  
and the Holy Spirit guide us in all that we do,  
now and always;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *us* and remain with us always.