

## Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community

### *Scattered Church: Worship at Home on Mothering Sunday*

(please have with you a posy of flowers or a single bloom from the garden)

We come as a *Scattered Church* to meet with God in our own homes. Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

As we remember the love we have received from our mothers and those who have nurtured us, we give thanks for the love of God which sustains us.

As a mother is tender towards her children  
so is the Lord tender to those who fear him.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but have eternal life.

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.

The response to 'Lord God, forgive us;' is  
**'and help us to be more loving'**

Let us call to mind our sin,  
our failure to value the love of others  
and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Heavenly Father, parent 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.**

God has loved us,  
sending his Son Jesus  
to show us the true meaning of forgiveness

Lord God, forgive us;

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

God says, 'As a mother comforts her child,  
so will I myself comfort you.'  
Your sins are forgiven;  
rest on God as in your mother's arms.  
In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Special prayer 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.**

### **Bible readings and reflection**

#### **Exodus 2:1-10**

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 for 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.' This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Luke 2:33-35**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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.’ This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Reflection**

Let us affirm our faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

### **Intercessions**

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

The response to ‘God of love,’ is ‘**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 found.

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 marginalised, 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.**

Loving God,  
we ask you to bless all who live alone  
or who at present feel isolated;  
bless those who have lost their life partner,  
those who have never married,  
those whose families are grown up and away from home,  
and those who have outlived other members of their families  
and many of their friends.  
Be with them to assure them of your love  
and of their value to you every moment of their lives,  
and enable them to rejoice  
in the fellowship of your Church  
on earth and in heaven.  
God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
Accept the cries of our heart  
as we offer you prayers  
through them transform us and all creation  
until you are in all and through all.  
We ask these and all our prayers  
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

Jesus said: 'Love one another.  
As I have loved you,  
so you are to love one another.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

As God's children and heirs with Christ  
we cry in the Spirit 'Abba', Father:  
**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.**

### **Blessing of the flowers**



Let us join in with the response **Thanks be to God**

O God,  
bless these flowers,  
bless all mothers and those who mother and nurture us.

For their care and concern  
**Thanks be to God**

For their patience when tested  
**Thanks be to God**

For their love when tired  
**Thanks be to God**

For their hope when despairing  
**Thanks be to God**

For their sharing our joys and carrying our pain  
**Thanks be to God**

For their service without limit  
**Thanks be to God**

May the flowers remind us how much our mothers have done for us;  
and how much we love them.

May they also remind us of God's love. **Amen.**

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 for ever. **Amen.**

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

If you want to live out your faith from your home,  
why not telephone someone, to let them know that they are not alone.

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God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

*(Ps 46:1-3)*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.  
Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.  
For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.  
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

*(Ps 27:1-2,3,5,13-14)*

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and  
‘Common Worship: Times and Seasons’  
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