



Holy Communion All Saints' Church

Mothering Sunday
19 March 2023

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, it is good to have you here.

*We ask that you do **not publish photographs** you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

***We stand as the bell sounds** to mark the beginning of our worship. As we sing our first hymn the altar party and choir process into church.*

HYMN

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
- 2 For the beauty of each hour
the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:
- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:
- 4 For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
- 5 For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

GREETING

Minister In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome may be said.

CONFESSION

Minister In all our services we take time to think about things that have gone wrong, even on a happy day like this.

Mothering Sunday is not happy for everyone: some people here might not have a mother anymore, some might be unable to be mothers, some may have lost a child through death, or lost contact with a child for any number of reasons. Others may have had an unhappy childhood and have painful memories. So as part of saying sorry we are going to think of these situations.

KYRIE ELEISON

Minister We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

Minister May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by your Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect is said:

Loving God,
you sent your Son to be part of a human family.
Strengthen us as we share family life together,
in our homes and in our church,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

READING Exodus 2.1-10

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.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

ANTHEM

1 Fathers and mothers,
 sisters and brothers,
 all those who love us,
 for whom we care:

help and befriend them,
keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour,
this is our prayer.

2 And for those others,
fathers and mothers,
children who hunger,
they must be fed:
we would be caring,
readily sharing,
one with another
our daily bread.

3 Sisters and brothers,
fathers and mothers,
we who together
offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving,
God ever living,
may we walk with you
all of our days.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) Words: © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa
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GOSPEL READING Luke 2.33-35

All/choir Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Cantor The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

All/choir Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

After the Homily silence may be kept.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Minister Today we think especially about being part of a family,
and particularly of how God is both Father and Mother to us.

Let us share together in these words:

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.

cf Ephesians 3

Silence may be kept.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This response may be included:

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And at the end:

All Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

PEACE

Minister Through the Prophet Isaiah, God says,
"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."

All The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Deacon Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

HYMN

- 1 Our Father God in heaven
on whom our 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.
- 2 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 path must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.
- 3 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,
to find in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love.
- 4 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!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

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TABLE PRAYER

Minister God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister The Lord is here.

All **His spirit is with us.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All/choir **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Minister We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten
he took the cup of wine, gave thanks,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood,
poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

All/choir Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord! Jesus is the Lord God almighty.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord! Jesus is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord!

Minister So Father,
with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All Amen.

Silence may be kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

All 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Minister We break this bread
 to share in the body of Christ.

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

All/choir Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord; worthy is the Lord God almighty.
 Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord; worthy is the Lord God almighty,
 Who was, and is, and is to come. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Minister Jesus is the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sin of the world.
 Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
 but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

HYMNS

1 God of Eve and God of Mary,
 God of love and mother-earth,
 thank you for the ones who with us
 shared their life and gave us birth.

- 2 As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.
- 3 Thank you that the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.
- 4 Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.
- 5 God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!

Fred Kaan (1929–2009) Words: © 1989, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England. Used by permission

- 1 For Mary, Mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.
- 2 Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,
though hard the task assigned,
and by the Holy Ghost conceived
the Saviour of mankind.
- 3 The busy world had got no space
or time for God on earth;
a cattle manger was the place
where Mary gave him birth.
- 4 She gave her body as God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain;
she knew the cost of love divine,
when Jesus Christ was slain.
- 5 Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.

6 Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

NOTICES

BLESSING THE FLOWERS

The president blesses the flowers.

Minister Loving God who is both our father and our mother,
we thank you for all the love we have known
in our homes, among our friends, with God's people.

Bless these flowers and as we share them,
may they remind us to be people of thanks,
people of love, and people of joy, in Jesus' name.

All Amen.

HYMN

During the hymn the flowers are distributed by the young people.

- 1 He's got the whole world in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 2 He's got you and me, brother, in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 3 He's got you and me, sister, in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 4 He's got the little tiny baby in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.

- 5 He's got everybody here in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.
- 6 He's got the whole world in his hand. [x3]
He's got the whole world in his hand.

African-American traditional song

BLESSING

Minister Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people and ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Jaques Lemmens: Fanfare

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OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Richard H, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath T, June M, Jenny A, Hilly S, Diana B, Peter S, Andre.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley C.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then tell Pat Thomas whom to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Frank Arthur Labram, Clara Maud Carter, Kathleen Johnson, Arthur James Brushfield, Caroline Florence Addie, David Biggs, William George Phillips, Norah Evelyn Dickens, Kathleen Christian Hayers, Stan Lovell, Ursula Steele, Leonard Gardner, Florence Tarry, Muriel Dagger, Len Gibson, Alice Catchpole, Eric Martin, Yvonne Harrison, John Lowry, John Morgan, Retha Cherry, Shirley Temple, Stanley Griffin, Norah Dickens, Betty Ferrier, Iris Marks, Brian Simcoe.

NOTICES

Lent Group – Exploring prayer 25 March 10:00-14:00, All Hallows' Hall. Children and grown-ups all welcome. The children will have their own activities. Free lunch afterwards. Please sign up on the sheet in church.

If you would like to buy an Easter lily in remembrance of a loved one for £3 each, please sign up on the sheet in church.

Holy Week posters are now available in church, please take as many as you need, to display them in your windows from Fig Monday to Easter.

Good Friday Workshop 7 April 10:00-11:30, All Hallows Vicarage garden. If you would like to attend, please email the benefice office, or tell Pat Thomas.

Decorate a window at All Saints for the coronation on 6 May. You can use any materials, they don't have to be flowers. Volunteers, please add your names to the list at the north door.

PRAY FOR A NEW DIOCESAN BISHOP

The process for appointing our next Diocesan Bishop continues. Please continue to pray for those involved in this process. Please pray for the process, for the people directly involved and for the person whom God is calling to be our new Bishop.

*God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be His Body in this place;
send us your Holy Spirit, at this time of uncertainty and change,
to fill us with vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer,
that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our communities;
guide us with your heavenly wisdom as we seek to find our new Bishop,
that the one who we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people:
ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example
in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

DIARY

Mon 20 Mar	Cuthbert	
13:00-14:00	All Hallows	Funeral RIP Stella Moses
Tues 21 Mar	Thomas Cranmer	
9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
Wed 22 Mar		
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15-13:00	All Hallows	Midweek Eucharist
Thurs 23 Mar		
9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-10:30	All Saints	Holy Communion
Fri 24 Mar		
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
18:15-19:15	All Saints	AS choir practice
19:30-20:30	All Hallows	AH choir practice
Sat 25 Mar	Annunciation	
10:00-14:00	All Hallows' Hall	Lent group
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public
Sun 26 Mar	5th Sunday of Lent	
9:15-10:15	All Saints	Eucharist
11:15-12:15	All Hallows	Eucharist
18:00-19:00	Zoom	Compline

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