



FAMILY COMMUNION

2023

9:30 AM

SUNDAY 19th MARCH 2023



Welcome, Introduction and Opening Hymn

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.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light :

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled :

For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven :

For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,

*Follitt Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)**

Nurturing God, we light this candle in
recognition of the great care and love
you have for each one of us.

Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Nurturing God,
we light this candle in thanksgiving for all mothers,
for all they do, or once did,
for all they give, or once gave

and for all they mean and will always mean.
Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

Confession

God of love, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our
lives;

forgive us, save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

forgive us: save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do and think and say;

forgive us, save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by
temptations in the world about us;

forgive us, save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

forgive us, save us and help us

May the God of love brings us back to himself, forgive us
our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ
our Lord **Amen**

Collect

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**

Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms: *As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you... (Isaiah 66:13)*

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children: *Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15).*

Colossians 1: 3-8

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Reflection

Claire

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may

grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Hymn

Today we bring our thankful hearts,
For all a mothering love imparts:
For those who gave us life and breath,
For love that's stronger far than death.

For kindness, patience, warmth and care,
For each embrace, each tear, each prayer,
Each word of peace, each healing touch,
These simple gifts which mean so much.

We look to you, our mothering Lord,
Who knows love's cost, and love's reward,
Your passion fiercer than the grave,
Love for the world you came to save.

So teach your people how to live,
How to endure, how to forgive,
Teach us to trust, to sacrifice,
To share the love that has no price.

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Gospel reading Luke 2: 33-38

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.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Reflection Revd Heather

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God together:

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**

Nurturing God,
we light this candle for all families throughout the world,
those who we know and love and those who we will never
know

Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

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.

Nurturing God,
we light this candle for the family of the Church, here and
everywhere.
For this community and in countries known to us, such as
South Sudan

Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

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.

Nurturing God,
we light this candle for all who nurture and encourage
others.

For those who are sick in body mind or spirit,
And all those who care for them at home or in hospital

Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

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)

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Flower Blessing

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children
of God.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

We offer one another a sign of peace

Hymn

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.

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.

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.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

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)

Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 137

Eucharistic prayer

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

[Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?](#)
Listen, and we will hear.

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 give us happy times

and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

[Question Why do we share this bread and wine?](#)
Listen, and we will hear.

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.'

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.

[Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?](#)

Listen, and we will hear.

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 Cuthburga and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray together:

**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 forever. Amen**

Giving of Communion and receiving of posies

Anthem during Communion

Prayer after Communion

**In gratitude for this moment,
this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.
Take us out to live as changed people,
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.
Ask much of us,
expect much of us,
enable much of us,
encourage many through us. Amen**

Closing Hymn

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.

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.

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.

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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Blessing and Dismissal

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ Amen

Organ Recessional

Dallier *Electa ut Sol*

Acknowledgements:

Collect and Eucharistic prayer from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000

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Excerpts taken from the Mothers' Union Service for Mothering Sunday 2021*

Candle prayer ~ from the website of St. Cyprian's Scottish Episcopal Church.

Final Blessing ©Church News Ireland

Holy Week and Easter

Monday 3rd April

8.00pm Sung Compline by candlelight

Tuesday 4th April

8.00pm Sung Compline by candlelight

Wednesday 5th April

11.00am Holy Communion

8.00pm Sung Compline by candlelight

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

Preacher: The Rt Revd Karen Gorham

Bishop of Sherborne

Good Friday, 7th April

12.00pm Three Hours' Devotion

Led by The Rt Revd Karen Gorham

Concluding with:

2.00pm Final hour Choral Solemn Liturgy

3.00pm Bun Walk to Pamphill

followed by service at

St Stephen's Kingston Lacy

Easter Sunday, 9th April

6.00am Dawn Eucharist Easter Fire

(enter, by West door)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Preacher: The Rt Revd Karen Gorham

9.45am Breakfast in The Forest Garden

11.15am Easter Praise

6.30pm Choral Evensong