

**Worship for Mothering Sunday Evening (complete text also online)**

***Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying.***

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Greeting

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

*STF 186 (H&P 86) Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

*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!*

Praising and thanking God

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Reading: Exodus 2.1-10

(The birth and youth of Moses)

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.'

Confession

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.

*Keep a little silence for reflection*

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.

We fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

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

**Christ have mercy.**

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You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore  
the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Reading: Luke 1.46-55

(Mary's song of praise)

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness  
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call  
me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for  
me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of  
their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our  
ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Song (Cornerstone)

*My hope is built on nothing less*

*Than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame*

*But wholly trust in Jesus' name*

*My hope is built on nothing less*

*Than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame*

*But wholly trust in Jesus' name*

*Christ alone; cornerstone*

*Weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm, He is Lord*

*Lord of all*

*When Darkness seems to hide His face*

*I rest on His unchanging grace*

*In every high and stormy gale*

*My anchor holds within the veil*

*My anchor holds within the veil*

*Christ alone; cornerstone*

*Weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm, He is Lord*

*Lord of all*

*He is Lord*

*Lord of all*

*Christ alone; cornerstone*

*Weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm, He is Lord*

*Lord of all*

*Christ alone; cornerstone*

*Weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm, He is Lord*

*Lord of all*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound*

*Oh, may I then in Him be found*

*Dressed in His righteousness alone*

*Faultless stand before the throne*

A Song of St Anselm

**Gather your little ones to you, O God, as a hen  
gathers her brood to protect them.**

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare  
us.

**Gather your little ones to you, O God, as a hen  
gathers her brood to protect them.**

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Reflection

'Surely, all generations will call me blessed,' says Mary (Luke 1.48). On the face of it, this could seem an unlikely thing for an unmarried mother of humble background to say. Joseph (Matthew 1.18-19) could see the potential scandal. Making this a blessing will require the active engagement of both Mary and Joseph.

There can be times when we want to complain, or we feel frustrated and angry about what has happened to us. We might even, during these times of unprecedented challenge to the whole world, discover that joy is hard to find, or personal circumstances make us dwell on sadness or loss, or our worries simply overwhelm us. It would be so easy for resentment to turn to rage, spoken or unspoken, regrets to turn to envy, our sadness reduces us to self-pity.

If we are to turn the situation round, we need Mary's example. We could begin by counting our blessings. We could list all the things for which we are thankful. They may include memories of a loved one no longer with us. Yes, we miss them, because what was shared was such a blessing. This needs to spur us on to be a blessing to others in difficult times. Amen

Song (Forever)

*Give thanks to the Lord our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever*

*Sing praise, sing praise*

*With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever*

*Sing praise, sing praise [2x]*

*Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever*

*From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God we will carry on  
His love endures forever*

*Sing praise, sing praise [2x]*

*[2x]  
Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever*

*Sing praise, sing praise [4x]*

*Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever*

*Forever You are faithful  
Forever You are strong  
Forever You are with us  
Forever*

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

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**We believe in God the Maker in whose image we are made and 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; Maker, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*(After each section this response may be used)*

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

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

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 pray for all those who work with children and families. We pray for voluntary sector organisations, community groups, social workers, teachers and health visitors - all those who help the families living in our community.

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. On this day we pray especially for all those who long to be parents, for those who must work away from their children and those who have

suffered the pain of losing their child. We pray especially for all those for whom Mothering Sunday is a day of pain and regret.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,**

**Source of all that is and shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven;**

**The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe.**

**The Way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world.**

**Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings.**

**Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptations and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too sharp to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

Song (There is a Redeemer)

*There is a Redeemer*

*Jesus, God's own Son*

*Precious Lamb of God*

*Messiah*

*Holy One*

*Thank You, O my Father*

*For giving us Your Son*

*And leaving Your Spirit till*

*The work on earth is done*

*Jesus, my Redeemer*

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*Name above all names  
Precious Lamb of God  
Messiah  
Holy One*

*When I stand in glory  
I will see His face  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place*

Prayer for all those who Mother us

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

For the care of those who mother us;

**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 service without limit;

**Thanks be to God.**

**Thank you God for mothering love:  
thank you God for care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys we share;  
thank you God for the pains we bear;  
thank you God for all we are given by you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

STF 81 (H&P 566) Now thank we all our God

*Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has 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,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.*

The Blessing

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

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.**

The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,  
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**