



ST MARY'S OXTED

Sunday 22nd March - Mothering Sunday

This is a resource to help you to worship and pray during any period of social distancing or self-isolation. The intention is that you will use it at the time you would normally be worshipping in your Sunday service. Please do share with your family and friends if you can.

Welcome

Lord, open our lips, and we shall praise your name

Hymn (you may wish to sing or simply speak these words)

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 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 greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

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 for evermore

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Confession

We bring to God those things we want to say sorry for.

Light a candle as a reminder that Jesus is with you.

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Dear God, please take all the thoughts, words and deeds that we know are wrong, and transform them for your glory. We ask for your forgiveness and love. Amen

Thank you God that you forgive me. I am forgiven by you. Amen.

Readings

Exodus 2:1-10

¹Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

John 19:25b-27

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother 'Woman, here is your son'. ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Thought for the Day - by Rev James Ashton

Today is Mothering Sunday, traditionally a day of refreshment from Lenten discipline, and an opportunity to return to the 'Mother' church. In our current practice, we mark this day by giving thanks for our own mums, but also we remember the mother of Jesus, and give thanks for her. In our other reading we also encounter Moses' mother (Jochebed), who in a wonderful tale of providence and trust, ends up caring for her son Moses in dangerous times.

At this time of our lives, we are most probably finding creative ways to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Staying in contact and giving support to our family and friends has become a vital aspect to our shared life together. We learn from Moses's family that sometimes we have to take a bold step to keep our loved ones safe. We hear

from Jesus on the cross – even in this time of awful pain, he was aware of the needs of his friends and his family.

Maybe today is day to tell your mum that you love her. A day to keep your loved ones close. Maybe it's a hard day for you, due to grief or sadness, days like this are not always radiant sunshine and daffodils. Maybe it's a day to remember or to share in cherished memories. Perhaps today is a day to get the photo album out or find new ways to share the love you have for one another.

Let us not lose heart, may we continue to reach out to those in need. We may be socially distanced, yet God is near. We may be self-isolated, yet God is always with us. We may be cancelling everything, yet God cannot be cancelled. We continue to be church, in new and creative ways. Please do continue to pray for one another.

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

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.

Prayers

For the peace that comes from God alone, for the unity of all peoples, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, for all those affected by the Coronavirus Disease we pray for your healing and strength. We pray that the sick will be made well and that the grieving will be comforted. May your saving health be known in all nations.

Lord, for Elizabeth our Queen and for all in authority, especially for our Government. We pray for our leaders, that they would make wise decisions.

Lord, for Oxted and Tandridge, and the surrounding areas. Please keep us safe. Thank you for the community we share. Help us to love our neighbour.

Lord, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. Please help us to act responsibly; especially when shopping at this time.

Lord, we pray for all those who are sick and suffering. We pray especially for all those who work in healthcare, education, emergency services, and other vital roles. Please Lord, give them the energy and resources they need.

We say the Lord's Prayer together:

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.

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,

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Blessing

May we know the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this day and forever more.

Amen

