

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL
THEME: HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY
27 MARCH 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to worship
our loving, nurturing God,
who, like a mother,
knows us intimately,
loves us unconditionally,
teaches us the way we should go,
and comforts us in times of need.
Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

OPENING HYMN: ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kTu10aBaKE>

1. All my hope on God is founded
All my trust He shall renew
He my guide through changing order
Only good and only true
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be His own
2. Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ His Son
Hear Christ's call
One and all
We who follow shall not fall

CCLI Song # 2578257, Joachim Neander | Robert Seymour Bridges, Public Domain

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Leader: Under your wings you would hide us:

All: Mothering God

Leader: Under your wings you would shelter us:

All: Mothering God

Leader: Under your wings you would warm us:

All: Mothering God

Leader: Under your wings you would nurture us:

All: Mothering God

Reader: On this Mothering Sunday, as we pause to
honour mothers, those who have mothered
us, mothers we know, and those we hear
about who face adverse circumstances, we



Luke 13.34b

'How many
times I wanted to
put my arms
around all your
people, just as a
hen gathers her
chicks under her
wings, but you
would not let me!

take a moment to pray. We ask God to keep them and protect them, providing hope for their peaks, and encouragement for their valleys. We share our desires for them, asking the Lord to give them guidance and direction. And we give thanks for the many ways God has blessed so many people through their gifts, talents and abilities. We also pray as the family of this church that we might love, serve and encourage, like a mother, those we encounter in the places where we live, worship, work or rest. As we connect with the Lord today, allow these three Psalms to lead our prayers:

Psalm 27:4-6 - In times of trouble he will shelter me; he will keep me safe in his Temple and make me secure on a high rock. So I will triumph over my enemies around me. With shouts of joy I will offer sacrifices in his Temple; I will sing, I will praise the Lord.

ALL: Lord, we ask you to encourage mothers when they need it most.

Leader: Psalm 5:11-12 - But all who find safety in you will rejoice; they can always sing for joy. Protect those who love you; because of you, they are truly happy. You bless those who obey you, Lord; your love protects them like a shield.

ALL: Lord, we ask you to guide them and protect them.

Leader: Psalm 36:5-6 - Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies. Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea. People and animals are in your care.

ALL: Lord God, We thank you for loving them. We rejoice in the wonder of your love and the

constancy of your care. Teach us to respond accordingly, living as you have taught us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY

Happy Mother's Day. I know that for some this day can be one of the happiest days. For others, it can bring a lot of pain. There are those who, for various reasons, do not have children and must endure another Mother's Day celebration with all the mothers receiving flowers and other gifts. Then, there are those who have lost their mothers. Today, the sadness of that loss returns.

Women around the globe, should be celebrated for their extraordinary contributions in all areas of society – as professionals, as bread-winners, as caregivers and caretakers. But I am also aware, and know you too are, of the stark reality that women suffer disproportionately from poor access to health services, discrimination, the effects of war, and, at times, victimization by harmful traditions.

Three years ago, I shared with you the statistics below – but it is important to keep in mind that behind every statistic listed below, there is a heart-breaking story to be told.

1. More than 530,000 women die in childbirth every year – tragically, the vast majority of these deaths are avoidable with simple and cost-effective health interventions.
2. It is estimated that up to 100,000 maternal deaths could be avoided each year, if these women had much better conditions for giving birth.
3. An estimated 52 million girls under the age of 18 years of age are married off by their families each year. Likewise, several hundreds of thousands of girls and women are trafficked every year as illegal workers and/or forced into prostitution.
4. An estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls undergo female genital mutilation each year and thousands more are at risk.
5. Millennial mothers, all around us, married, living with a partner or single, who are feeling overwhelmed and unsupported during the transition from motherhood to working mother. I would not know where to start – in describing the challenges single mothers face today in the world today.

Despite these startling statistics we know that women around the world have an undying spirit and unwavering commitment to making their lives, their families, and their

communities better. To every woman – to every mother, every mother-figure on this day we say, thank you and God bless you.

Christ is aware of these dangers and says to mothers, as he does to people in times of need and trouble, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

It is a proven fact that many mothers face endless sources of needless guilt. As one mother pointed out, 'the greatest sense of guilt many mothers face comes from within, as they never feels like they measure up to what it means to be good mothers'. There is always something else a mother feels like she should do. Many women, many mothers cannot stop thinking about that mistake they made'.

It also does help when "experts", especially on social media, tell mothers what they should do to become better mothers. To every mother, mother-figure or lady who performs a special mothering role in the family, church or community – Jesus says – come to me and rest...

To every woman, to every lady, to every mother, or grandmother, mother-figure – Paul says those beautiful words in Romans 8:1.

There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. There is no condemnation. You stand in the righteousness of Christ and are loved by God as His daughter because of Christ's work on your behalf, on the cross at Calvary.

Christ says, come and rest. He says whoever has the Son, has life. Christ came to set all men and indeed women free. Apostle Paul teaches,

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

So go forward in freedom, with the unending affection and acceptance of being a daughter of the most high God, perfectly adored with an unwavering love that flows from your father in heaven. Again, Happy Mother's Day and God bless you all, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION:

Lord, today is a day that we want to celebrate mothers from all around the world. We thank you for blessing us with mothers and mother figures in our life. Loving God, our heavenly Father, on this day we say thank you for all that our mothers are to us and for all that they do for us.

We thank you for the gift of parenthood you have blessed us with and we pray that today will be a celebration of all mothers.

Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for those who find this day difficult. We pray that you will draw alongside those who among us, those known to us and in our community are hurting today to comfort us and surround us with your tender care.

We pray

- for mothers who have been separated from their children, and families that are unable to be together.
- For mothers who are worried or afraid for their child's well-being or safety.

We ask you, heavenly Father, to bring healing, comfort, forgiveness and peace into the hearts and minds of hurting mothers.

Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer

Yes, Lord also hear our prayer for love and security, courage and hope into the lives of hurting sons and daughters today. Hear our prayers for children who have nowhere to call home. We ask you to guide us, and give us the courage to consider if we could open up our homes and be a mother for children who need one – through such initiative as Safe Families for Children

We ask you heavenly Father, to bring healing and forgiveness into the lives of all those for whom today brings back painful memories of broken relationships, loss or unfulfilled hopes. Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family with whom we may show your love and tender care for all your hurting children.

Thank you, God, that you nurture, comfort and teach us as a mother. Thank you that you model family and community to us through your Son, Jesus Christ. And we praise you, Lord, for the gift of your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer

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

SONG: THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD (X2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnOFh9WFe6k>

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning
New every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness**

CCLI Song # 21590, Edith McNeill © 1974, 1975 Celebration

HOLY COMMUNION



(All) MODERN CREED

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: Come, all you who are loved by God, Come, and be fed with the food that He gives freely. Come, and quench your thirst from the Waters of Life. Come, and let your spirits be filled again with the goodness of your Creator – the Lord God Almighty, and the giver of all good things,

All: Almighty God, we hear Your invitation, we see Your gifts of life and grace. We have come, we have tasted your goodness. You are full of glory and all things belong to You. We thank You for giving us Your only Son, even though we were not worthy of Your generosity. Pour Your refreshing Spirit on these elements and on us as we remember Christ in the way He commanded through these gifts of Your creation, Amen.

Leader: We remember the way that Jesus showed us His love. On the evening before He died, He had supper with His friends. During the meal, He took

the loaf of bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and then passed it around with these words: **'This is my body broken for you. Eat this and remember Me'**.

And, after the meal He took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it and then passed it around with these words: **'This is my blood shed for you. Drink this and remember Me'**. And now, every time we eat bread like this, and every time we drink wine like this, we remember Jesus, and His everlasting love.

INVITATION

Friends, draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE BREAD OF HEAVEN

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THE CUP OF SALVATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now come, all you who are loved by God. Hear His call to serve others as He has served you. Hear His invitation to be part of His plan to rescue the world; Join the community of those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Lord God of World-Changing Love, we thank You for this meal, and for welcoming us to Your table. We remember that we are your children, and that You have called us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Help us to receive Your life, walk in Your strength, and follow Your ways every moment of our lives.

And now, may God's caring arms embrace us, Jesus' comforting words fill us, and the Holy Spirit's renewing Presence surround us today and always. Amen.

THE PEACE IS SHARED

The peace of the Lord
Jesus Christ
be with you all.
Let us share the peace.



CLOSING HYMN: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EikRxx5-8NE>

1. Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Chorus

**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love with all my soul**

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Chorus

**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love with all my soul**

3. Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

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BENEDICTION AND AMEN

"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). Says the Lord, our God.

We now go, in the comfort and peace of the One who gave birth to us. We go in the assurance that the Comforter is with us always.

We go to give comfort and peace to others.

Divine Wisdom, guide us as we go forth on the paths of peace.

May we find joy in sharing these blessings with others.

And may the grace...

VIDEO AFTER SERVICE: YOU ARE GOD, FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJMNaggzDVM>