

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# MOTHERING SUNDAY



SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

10AM MORNING WORSHIP & PARADE SERVICE



*Leader Canon Simon  
Preacher Sarah*



## **WELCOME & Introduction**

### ***The GATHERING***

*Loving God,  
you gather us together  
as a Mother Hen gathers her chicks.  
Hear us as we give thanks  
for mothers and for mothering  
on this special day.  
As a Mother loves her child  
so you love us.  
**We praise you and we thank you.***

*We thank you for Mothers –  
for our own mother, and for mothers everywhere.  
**All mothers are made in the image of God;  
We praise you and we thank you.***

*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it!***

## **HYMN 394 - Tell out my soul**

*(during which the Choir process and the colours are brought forward)*

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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!**

TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH (b. 1926)

## **ASKING FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight  
and chosen what displeased him.  
Yet as a mother comforts her child,  
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.  
So let us come to him  
who knows our every deed  
and thought.

*Silence for reflection.*

For things we should not have said:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For actions we regret:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For not loving each other as you love us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love

bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***COLLECT of THE DAY***

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.

## **TALK – PART 1 TRUE OR FALSE**

**READING:** 1 Samuel 1: 20-end

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only - may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 656 - He's got the whole world in his hands**

***1 He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***2 He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.  
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.  
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***3 He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.  
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.  
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***\* 4 He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.  
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.  
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***5 He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***6 He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

African-American traditional song

**READING:** Luke 2: 33-35

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.'

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**TALK – PART 2**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Loving Shepherd of thy sheep - Ledger*

**PRAYER AND DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS**

O God,  
bless these flowers,  
bless us and bless those who mother us.  
May the flowers remind us  
how much those who mother  
have done for us;  
may they remind them  
how much we love them;  
and may they remind us all  
that God cares for each one of us,  
because we are all his children. **Amen.**

*Please come forward during the hymn  
to collect flowers to give to those who have mothered you.*

**HYMN 604 Brother, sister let me serve you**

**1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**

**2 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
And companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other.  
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4 I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.**

**5 When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**

**6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**

RICHARD A. M. GILLARD (b. 1953)

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** (*please remain standing*)

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of 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.**

**HYMN 533 - All things bright and beautiful (Omit \* Verse 4)**  
*(during which the hearts will be collected)*

***All things bright and beautiful,***  
***All creatures great and small,***  
***All things wise and wonderful:***  
***The Lord God made them all.***

***1 Each little flower that opens,***  
***Each little bird that sings,***  
***He made their glowing colours,***  
***He made their tiny wings.***

***All things bright and beautiful,***  
***All creatures great and small,***  
***All things wise and wonderful:***  
***The Lord God made them all.***

**2 The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky.**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.**

**5 He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.**

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1818-1895)

***INTERCESSIONS*** (please sit or kneel to pray)

**INCLUSIVE MOTHERING SUNDAY PRAYERS**

Loving God, we thank you for all the people who have mothered us throughout our lives. For all who have held us and fed us, cared for us and comforted us, challenged and encouraged us.

We pray for new mothers experiencing changes they could not predict. Grant them rest and trust in you.

We pray for girls and women who think about whether to become mothers. Grant them patience and discernment.

We pray for mothers who are raising their children in poverty. Grant them courage and relief.

We pray for mothers who face the demands of single parenthood. Grant them strength, support, and wisdom.

We pray for mothers who are separated from their children. Grant them faith and hope.

We pray for adoptive and foster mothers. Grant them gratitude and insight.

We pray for mothers whose relationships are going through difficult times. Grant them clarity and support.

We pray for women who long to be mothers. Grant them strength, hope, and opportunities to share their love.

We pray for those who have suffered from abusive mothering. Grant them healing and strength.

We pray for step-mothers, godmothers, and all men and women who have assumed a mother's role in a child's life. Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

We pray for those people present who grieve the loss of a mother, and for mothers who have lost children. Grant them comfort, healing, and the hope of Christ's resurrection.

Merciful Father,

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

## ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

Let us now say together the prayer that our Lord taught us.

**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.**

***Banns of Marriage & notices***

**HYMN 652 - Guide me, O thou great redeemer**

*(during which our collection is brought forward and the colours are collected)*

***1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.***

***2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through;  
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my Strength and Shield,  
be thou still my Strength and Shield.***

***3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.***

WILLIAM WILLIAMS (1717-1791)

Translated by PETER WILLIAMS (1727-1796)

## ***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:  
and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us and all those we love and  
care for this day and always.

**Amen.**

## ***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**