

Sunday Worship for 14 March 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

HYMN

Love divine all loves excelling

Sung by St Martin's Singers

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Words: Charles Wesley

Tune: Blaenwern

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Rt Rev Rachel Trewick, Bishop of Gloucester

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

All and also with you.

MUSIC

I place my hands in yours

Sung by Almost Blue

I place my hands in yours, Lord, I place my hands in yours.

I place my will in yours, Lord, I place my will in yours.

I place my thoughts in yours, Lord, I place my thoughts in yours.

I place my heart in yours, Lord, I place my heart in yours.

I place my days in yours, Lord, I place my days in yours.

I place my life in yours, Lord, I place my life in yours.

Music: Angela Reith

Words from David Adam's book of Celtic prayers:

'The Edge of Glory' published by SPCK 1985 and are copyright © SPCK

Reproduced with permission through PLSClear

CONFESSION

Led by Alexandra Dyer, Reader at St James, Tredworth

In the book of Isaiah we hear the words of God: 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you'; so Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith:

Silence is kept.

God of mercy,
**All we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Bishop Rachel

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by God's Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

REFLECTION

Given by the Rev Charlotte Cheshire

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Canon Margaret Edwards (Mothers' Union)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1.3-7).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Given by Faith Newton

PSALM

Psalm 34.11-20

Sung by the boy choristers of Gloucester Cathedral

Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things?
Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous;
from them all will the Lord deliver them.
He keeps all their bones,
so that not one of them is broken.

GOSPEL READING

Read by the Oyedele family (Femi and Elizabeth, Zechariah and Joel)

A reading from the Gospel according to 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

Pam Rhodes, Songs of Praise and Premier Christian Radio Presenter

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

MUSIC

Take this moment sign and space

Sung by St Martin's Singers

Take this moment, sign and space;
Take my friends around;
Here among us make the place
Where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,
Take the time to mend
Who I am and what I've been,
All I've failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days,
Take my past regret,
Letting your forgiveness touch
All I can't forget

Take the little child in me
Scared of growing old;
Help me here to find my worth
Made in Christ's own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills,
Take what's yet to be;
Let my life be yours, and yet
Let it still be me.

Words and Music: John Bell and Graham Maule

PRAYERS

Led by Rev David Runcorn

COLLECT

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

A Song of Anselm

Spoken by mothers and children from the Diocese of Gloucester

Before we join together in the prayer Jesus taught us, we hear the Song of Anselm, based on his prayer hundreds of years ago. It is brought to us by mothers and children in the Diocese of Gloucester.

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride;
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds;
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We join together in the words of the Lord's prayer using the language and words which are most familiar to us:

**All 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 for ever.
 Amen.**

BLESSING

Bishop Rachel

In a moment we will be sent out with a blessing and we will join together in singing our final hymn which speaks of God's hope through every hour of each day.

After this service you might want to find a photograph of a mother or carer or child who is on your heart and mind this day; or you might wish to choose an object which reminds you of a person (or an event) poignant for you this day. You could place that photograph or object in a special place in your home in an act of prayer, and you might like to listen again to the sung prayer at the start of this service - 'I place my hands in yours' - as you place yourself, your joy, your struggle, your delight and your pain, in the hands of God who loves you with the love of a perfect mother.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:

May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you:

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.

May almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever.

All Amen.

HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness

Sung by St Martin's voices

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

*Words: Jan Struther
Tune: Slane*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Service led by the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester.

With thanks to Pam Rhodes, Songs of Praise and Premier Christian Radio presenter, the Oyedele family (Femi and Elizabeth, Zechariah and Joel), mothers and children from the Diocese of Gloucester, Faith Newton, Rev David Runcorn, Rev Charlotte Cheshire, Canon Margaret Edwards (Mothers' Union), Alexandra Dyer, Reader at St James, Tredworth.

Music Performed by the St Martin's Singers. directed by Andrew Earis and the boy choristers of Gloucester Cathedral and Almost Blue.

BSL Interpretation by Naomi Barry.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2021.

Texts of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under the terms of CCL licence 1363240 and MRL licence 1363257, Calamus Licence number 10445, or One License 733232-A.

New Patterns for Worship, © The Archbishops' Council 2002.

Bible readings are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.