



## **Mothers' Union Service for Mothering Sunday Welcome**

Welcome to this service for Mothering Sunday, a celebration, not only to thank God for all Mothers but to thank and recognise all those who nurture us through our lives, including God.

The work of the Mothers' Union around the world is about nurturing individuals, groups and communities by enabling them to improve their quality of life and providing opportunities for communication and reconciliation within families. The MU facilitates a network of parenting groups, provides a range of support for families and produces resources on issues important to adults and children.

### **Call to Worship**

Come, worship God, who said

'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

*(Isaiah 66:13a)*

**Yes, let us worship God, who is the comforter and provider of all.**

Lighting of 5 candles by a mother and children

Nurturing God, we light this candle in recognition of the great care and love you have for each one of us.

**Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.**

Nurturing God, we light this candle in thanksgiving for all mothers, for all they do, or once did, for all they give, or once gave and for all they mean and will always mean.

**Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.**

Nurturing God, we light this candle for all families throughout the world.

**Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.**

Nurturing God, we light this candle for the family of the Church, here and everywhere.

**Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.**

Nurturing God, we light this candle for all who nurture and encourage others.

**Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.**

## **Hymn**

### **Confession**

Let us call to mind, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

*Silence for reflection*

Your love gives us life from our beginning.  
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**

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

Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**

**Come, Redeemer of the poor, come, Light of our hearts,  
come, generous Spirit, by the glory of your creation around  
us, by the comfort of your forgiveness within us,  
by the wind of your Spirit moving in this place,  
renew us and make us whole.**

The Lord enrich you with His grace, and nourish you with His blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all harm; the Lord accept your prayers, and forgive your misdoings, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour  
**Amen**

**Reading**

**Collect**

**Reading**

**Talk**

## **Declaration of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father  
From whom all 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**

## **Offertory Hymn**

**Presentation of Offerings  
Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the  
splendour and the majesty, for everything in heaven and  
on earth is yours. All things come from you and of your  
own do we give you.**

## **Thanksgiving:**

**We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:  
We praise you, O Lord.  
And bring you thanks today.**

**For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
And bring you thanks today.**

For fathers who have loved and supported us,  
We praise you O Lord;  
**And bring you thanks today.**

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**And bring you thanks today.**

For children and their parents:  
We praise you O Lord;  
**And bring you thanks today.**

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us in our  
hopes and joys and times of sadness:  
We praise you O Lord;  
**And bring you thanks today.**

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us into  
the family of our Father in heaven:  
We praise you O Lord;  
**And bring you thanks today.**

**Help us to live as those who belong to one another,  
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen**

## **Hymn**

### **Intercessory Prayers:**

God of all, we bring to you our concerns:  
concerns for ourselves and those we love;  
our concerns for the world and our sisters and brothers  
in the world wide family to which we all belong.

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.  
When I call answer me.  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me (*Taize Chant*)**

We pray for all children in the world:  
that they may feel affirmed and listened to;  
we pray especially for those who live in areas  
where daily life is difficult due to war, famine or disease  
and for those who are without parents  
or anyone to care for them.

**O Lord hear my prayer ...**

We pray for all families:  
for mothers or fathers struggling to bring up children alone  
for families under strain – poor, homeless or unable to cope  
and for parents whose children have died,  
or who are separated from them.

**O Lord hear my prayer ...**

We pray for the family of the Church:  
for all who work for the building up of God's Kingdom  
and we remember especially all Mothers' Union members  
around the world, working to bring God's love to others.

**O Lord hear my prayer ...**

We give thanks for the people in our lives who have  
encouraged us, changing our lives in often small but important  
ways. May God make us gentle, directing our lives so that we  
may look to the good in others and leading us in the ways of  
reconciliation so that we may see peace and justice across the  
world.

**O Lord hear my prayer ...**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **The Mothers' Union Prayer**

**Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen**

## **Blessing and Distribution of flowers**

**All:**

**God in heaven,  
we will never fully know  
what our mothers have done for us.  
We can never fully repay them  
for their countless gifts of love.  
But we give these flowers today  
as a sign of how we love them.  
Amen**

Children give out the posies of flowers

## **Hymn**

### **The Blessing**

May the Lord strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others. And the blessing of GOD Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always.

**Amen**