



# Holy Trinity Geneva

## Mothering Sunday

### Service Sheet



Walking Madonna - at Salisbury Cathedral

## PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

## CANTICLE

Let us listen to your voice this day and harden not our hearts. Let us not be like our ancestors who saw the great deeds you had done, yet put you to the test in the desert,

at the place called 'Bitterness' and 'Quarrel'. They were wayward in their hearts, they were ignorant of your ways. So they could sense your love only as wrath, and were trapped in their restless wandering.

**If we listen to your voice deep within us, we shall know the mercy and grace of your love. We shall see you as Judge of the earth,**

**doing right in the sight of all peoples, enfolding us in your faithfulness, quelling our rebellious strife.**

Spirit of God, take shape among us,

**Spirit of the One who fulfilled God's promise.**

Humble us in awe at your presence:

**let us adore you in the silence of love.**

Deepen our gratitude in obedience and trust,

**in your covenant made sure for ever.**

## HYMN

Maker of mystery,  
dreamer of what will be,  
wellspring and fertile ground of all  
our growing:  
tending the buried seed,  
foreseeing every need,  
you draw us into life beyond our  
knowing.

Christ, strong and living vine  
spreading through space and time,  
deep-rooted in the love of God our  
Mother:  
dying, you live and share  
your strength with us, to bear  
ripe fruit in season for the life of  
others.

Wild Spirit, springing green,  
coiled in the depths unseen,  
promise of seed within the fruit  
maturing:  
new life, you grow and swell,  
burst from the outgrown shell,  
hundredfold yield in every age  
ensuring.

Living and loving God,  
sing in the pulse of our own blood;  
help us to know you in your great  
creation,  
love you, the life of all,  
serve you and hear your call  
from our first forming to our full  
salvation.

## OPENING PRAYER

Living Presence, flowing through human lives like water springing up in desert places, quench our thirst, we who have become dry and shriveled, invigorate us, that we may stride forth once more on our journey, and gladden our hearts that we may walk with a spring in our step.

We pray this in the Spirit of the One who bore the cost of love, enduring to the end.     **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### FIRST READING

#### 2 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.      **Thanks be to God.**

### Junior Choir Anthem for Mothering Sunday

N Sleeth: In the bulb there is a flower (Hymn of promise)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Words and Music: N. Sleeth

## SECOND 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.'

**John 19.25b-27** Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## HOMILY by Canon Alan and Dr Clare Amos

Today, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, has long been kept by many Anglican Christians as 'Mothering Sunday'.

I, Clare, was actually supposed to be in Jerusalem today, linked to a study visit being made there by two interns working for a year in our diocese in Europe. But one of the interns is based in Rome and the other in Vienna, and first Italy and then Austria found themselves on Israel's quarantine list, and then eventually the United Kingdom did too of course, so none of us made it. It would in fact have been particularly appropriate to have been in Jerusalem on this particular day, for you can go back to the Reformation period and find a scriptural connection between Jerusalem and the keeping of today as 'Mothering Sunday'. In the Book of Common Prayer the Epistle selected by the lectionary for the Fourth Sunday in Lent comes from Galatians 4 which speaks of the 'Jerusalem above who is free and who is our mother'. And it was this mention of mother Jerusalem in the set readings for the day that led to the keeping of today as 'Mothering Sunday'. So the tradition grew up of people visiting the 'mother church' of the diocese - the cathedral or other central church - on this day. Later on, especially in the 19th century, it became a day when young people who were in domestic service were given time off to visit their mothers at home - often taking with them a special cake known as a 'Simnel' cake. Though society has - thankfully - changed radically over the past 100 years or so, 'Mothering Sunday' this is still a day when we can all remember our mothers with gratitude - no matter what our or their age, or what our situation. There is a particular

bittersweetness about the day this year of course - it would often be a time when several generations, from very young to very old, would get together to celebrate intergenerational family life. That, however, we are now being told, is not a wise idea this year, in these days of self isolation.

For obvious reasons, the usual Gospel which is read on Mothering Sunday is one of the New Testament passages in which Mary the mother plays a key role. There is normally a choice offered between two - which come from very different stages of the life of Mary, and of her Son Jesus.

Because they are both very short, on this occasion we have read both of them - the one linked to that time so shortly after Jesus' birth, when mother and child came to the Temple, and Simeon spoke both of the 'light' and 'glory' that Jesus was inaugurating - and yet also warned of the sword that would pierce Mary's heart. The other reading comes from the time when Mary stands at the cross, watching, in a way a mother never should have to, the death of her son - comforted at least a little we hope by Jesus' words to her and to his beloved disciple, 'Woman, here is your son', and to his disciple, 'Here is your mother', words that offer care, both practical and emotional.

Alan takes up the 'pen': We have seen Mary in the Temple; we have seen Mary at the Cross; but perhaps there is a third Mary, elusive but real. That is the Mary who ponders. Who thinks things out in the quiet of her heart. Clare and I both love the statue, "the Walking Madonna" by Elizabeth Frink which stands outside Salisbury Cathedral. I say "stands" but it really feels like a statue in motion, if that is possible. Mary strides away from the Cathedral, wrapped in her own thoughts. Perhaps she has had enough of "churchiness" and is setting her feet towards the market place, towards our common humanity; or perhaps she carries with her the spirit of worship from the holy place that stands behind her. But for us, now, I think she is revealed as "the self-isolating Mother of God." She comes to us in this time of the virus, with her message, "learn from me to be yourself in God's presence; then you will come to know, like me, how to be by yourself." For the Mary described by Luke - who according to Orthodox tradition was the first to paint an icon of Mary - is one who knows how to be alone, and to ponder:

"but Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart" Luke 2.19

"but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart" Luke 2.51.

In her aloneness - it seems that Joseph left her a widow at an early age - she did not diminish, but grew in faith, hope and love, showing us the way; the way to see and to endure.

## Music for Reflection

Ave Maria - Bach-Gounod - performed by Anna and Emma Charles

*Ave Maria*

*Maria*

*Gratia plena*

*Ora pro nobis*

*Dominus tecum*

*Nobis peccatoribus*

*Benedicta tu in mulieribus*

*Nunc et in hora, in hora*

*Et benedictus fructus ventris*

*Mortis nostrae*

*Tui Jesus*

*Amen, Amen*

*Sancta Maria, Sancta Maria*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION : A Litany of biblical mothers

Eve, mother of our humanity,

**teach us true wisdom, that all life is precious in God's sight.**

Sarah, Hannah, and Elizabeth, yearning for a child,

**comfort and strengthen all who know the pain of infertility.**

Hagar, condemned to the harshness of exile,

**sustain those who struggle to feed their sons and daughters.**

Rebecca, bride from a far-off land,  
**welcome women who must bring up family among strangers.**

Rachel, weeping for your children,  
**weep with all mothers whose children have disappeared.**

Jochebed, mother of Moses and Miriam,  
**lend your ingenuity to women who seek protection for their children.**

Naomi and Ruth, bound together by a love greater than blood,  
**show us how bitter disappointment can become the sweetness of hope.**

Mary, daughter of Israel, mother of Jesus,  
**share with us God's secrets you have pondered deep within your heart.**

We offer our own prayers in silence.

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as our Saviour 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, now and for ever. Amen.**

## 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 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. **Amen.**

## AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us. The basic elements of an Act of Spiritual Communion are an Act of Faith; an Act of Love; a desire to receive Christ; and an invitation to Him to come into your heart.

The following text presents a modern translation of a popular form of an Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori. You can memorize it or use it as a guide to offering your own Act of Spiritual Communion in your own words.

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

## HYMN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXmrNZKJ3-A>

Sing we of the blessed Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word;  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her  
through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home;  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with  
grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

## THE CONCLUSION

In our hearts and our homes the love of God;  
**in our coming and going the peace of God;**  
in our life and believing the strength of God;  
**at our end and beginning the welcome of God.**

### **A Prayer for our times**

Keep us, Good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Diocese of Exeter)

## BLESSING

### **Prayer Requests**

For the sick, especially Valerie Slessor, Frances Boo, Rémy Boo,  
Chakravarthi Raghavan, Jenny Syrathev, Adrian and George Thomasz,  
Emmanuel Palmer, David Robinson, and Lorensz Ranasinghe.

***Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.  
(1 Chronicles 29:14)***

Please do remember that although we are currently unable to offer services and other events at our church buildings – we have the same ongoing staff and building costs. We will not benefit from our usual income from the offertory plate and we would therefore urge you to continue to donate either online or by setting up a regular Pledge. Details on the website or via the Church office.

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Out of the Silence: Prayer's Daily Round, Jim Cotter & Paul Payton, Cairns Publications, 2006.

Unfolding the Living Word Jim Cotter Canterbury Press, 2012