

# Mothers' Union Liturgy for Mothering Sunday 2018

**Theme: Called to Mother in a Broken World**

*(Give people a token, e.g. a stone or ribbon, as they come in)*

## The Gathering

*Please stand as the ministers enter the church  
A minister greets the people with these words*

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you.**

### Welcome

*Specific words of welcome to the community can be said here by  
the president or minister*

### Gathering Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks  
for all those who have mothered us in our lives.  
In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love,  
please use us to aid others as you do us in providing comfort,  
nurture, protection and support.  
We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us,  
so that we might celebrate your goodness together  
even through our own brokenness.

**All Amen**

*Hymn or song maybe be sung here*

### Prayer of Preparation

God our Father, as Pharaoh's daughter noticed the needs  
of a small child alone in the reeds,  
so help us to notice those areas of our own lives  
needing care and attention.

Therefore, let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's  
forgiveness and peace.



## *Space for reflection*

### **Prayer of Penitence**

We have failed to nurture the needy,

**All Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to make space in our lives for the broken-hearted.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

### **Authorised Absolution**

*The president says*

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid  
and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

### **Collect**

*Either of the following may be used*

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 forever.

**All Amen**

*(or)*

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.

**All Amen**

## *Liturgy of the Word*

### **Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 2.1-10

*The following introduction to the reading may be said*

Moses' mother entrusts her child to Pharaoh's daughter; Pharaoh's daughter recognises her responsibility to mother a child in need.



*Invite the children to come to the front and teach them how to make a 'basket' with their fingers. Ask them to show their parents/carers how to do this, either with their own hands, or by adult and child linking fingers. The 'hand-basket' is a symbol of the way in which adult and child care for each other.*

*Hymn or song maybe sung here*

### **Gospel Reading**

John 19.25b-27

*The following introduction to the reading may be said*

In pain, facing death, Jesus entrusts his mother and his friend to each other, in their desolation and bereavement, to mother each other and his disciples.

### **Sermon**

#### ***Ideas for talks and sermons***

We've put together some different ways to express the ideas and images that the liturgy in the service intends to deliver.

*You may need:*

A basket – preferably wicker or woven.

*The ideas:*

We are one body because we all share in one bread:

- )] The symbolic gesture of the basket is to help members of the congregation to think of themselves as the individual strands that are woven together to make the basket. We are one body because we all share in one bread, Jesus.
- )] The basket can also be used as a symbol of God's loving embrace, His motherly love that holds and carries all in joy and sadness.

Entrusting the care of a child to another - Linking in with the Exodus reading:

- )] Linking in with the Exodus reading, there is an opportunity to use the basket to hold the image of a child being entrusted to another to care for them.
- )] A chance to recognise all who have and do show motherly love to a child, addressing all situations and also the pain of the loss of a child.

Motherly love has no boundaries, we are all family - Linking in with the Gospel reading:

- )] The basket can also assist in the commending of parental trust to another as Jesus did in his dying breaths. The passing of the basket, an interwoven gift of love, can hold all the worries and fears that difficult parenting decisions can bring.
- )] Jesus recognised that we are all brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers in the Christian life, love holds no boundaries and is woven into all.
- )] Love breaking through the pain that can be experienced in families.

### **Response action/activity**

*Explain the opportunity at the end of the service to tie a ribbon/leave a stone at the foot of the cross for mourning mother figures/lack of mothering we/others have experienced or as a prayer for those we would like to be surrounded by God's love today.*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

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

**All Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*These Biddings should be supplemented with locally appropriate prayers*

We give thanks for the Church, our mother, who brought us to birth in the family of Christ, through the waters of baptism. We pray that all Christians will hear again God's call to mother those in need, and bring them home to God.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken-hearted.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. In particular, we pray for those who have lost a motherly presence, and for those who have never known a mother's love. May they find consolation in God, the one in whom every family on earth finds its home.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have loved us and nurtured us in faith. May we be bold to share what we have received.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us into the many mansions of the Father's home. May we learn from them to trust God's care and provision for us, all the days of our life and into our death.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

# *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

## **Peace**

Christ is our peace. He offered up his life for us with a love beyond imagining; with a love which dispels fear; with a love which holds and guides us through life's trials and joys.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. You may like to use your interlocking fingers again, or a simple handshake.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

## **Offertory**

*Hymn or song maybe sung here*

## **Eucharistic Prayer G**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*(or)*

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,

our light and our salvation;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels

and all the powers of heaven

we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.]**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
*Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

*One of these four acclamations is used*

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*(or)*



[Praise to you, Lord Jesus:]

**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*(or)*

[Christ is the bread of life:]

**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*(or)*

[Jesus Christ is Lord:]

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

[Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
and preserve her in peace ...]

Bring us at the last with [N and] all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*The priest may say*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The President breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ

**All Though we are many, we are one body  
because we all share in the on bread.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken*

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president invites the people to communion*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### **Prayer After Communion**

*Activities/songs during communion to involve all ages.*

*E.g. a bunch of flowers (or another suitable token) given to each person as they return from communion. Ensure flowers for those who don't come up.*

*A cross is placed at one side of the church, with a basket/box beside it. People to be encouraged to leave the token they were given as they entered church (ribbon/stone) at the foot of cross as a symbol of one or more of the following:*

- ) In thanksgiving for those who have mothered them.*
- ) As a symbol of those they have failed to mother or who have failed to mother them.*
- ) As a symbol of those who have experienced disappointment in relation to their mother or being a mother.*

*Hymn or Song maybe sung here or during distribution of flowers and placing of tokens.*

*Either of these may be used*

Lord God,  
whose blessed Son our Saviour  
gave his back to the smiters  
and did not hide his face from shame:  
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time  
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(or)*

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *The Dismissal*

### *Notices*

*We sit and listen to the notices*

God of Grace and compassion  
your son, Jesus Christ was part of a family in Nazareth.  
He knew the love of a mother and of a father  
and by dying on the cross brought us all together as new family.  
help us in the Christian Journey to strive for that day when the whole of humanity is  
one family together in your church.

**All Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us all to birth,  
strengthen us for daily life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, 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 you  
and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**