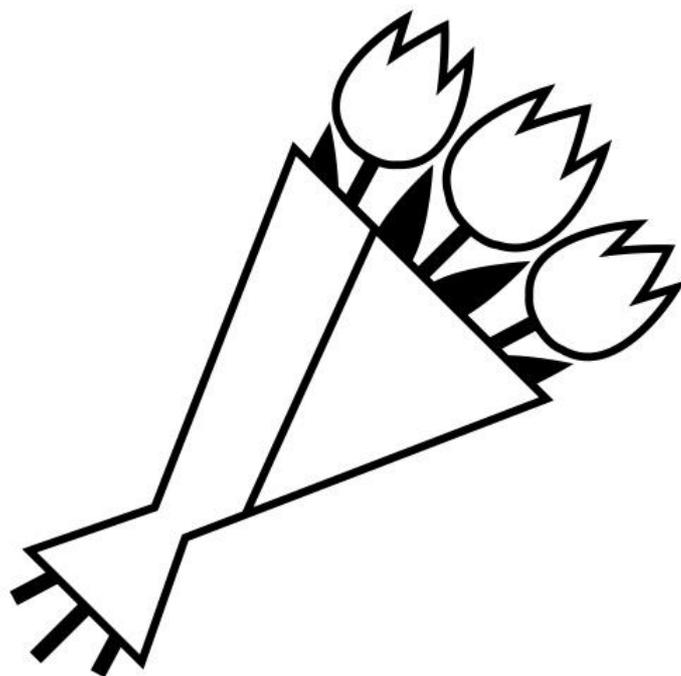


# St Edburgha's Church



# Mothering Sunday

## Welcome...



**We're really glad that you are joining us for this special service today!**

Whatever the stresses and strains in getting yourself and perhaps other family members here this morning, now it's time to relax and slow down. Jesus said, **"Peace be with you"**.

Don't worry about the children making a little bit of noise. This service has been designed with children in mind and we hope they will enjoy taking part.



To follow this service, you just need this booklet. We'll guide you through, so you don't need to know anything beforehand.

We want you to be "in the moment", so we ask that you please silence your phone for the time being and enjoy a brief period of being 'unplugged' from the demands of technology.



You are most welcome to stay after the service for a tea and chat.

## **Opening hymn:**

*Please stand as you are able*

Angel-voices ever singing  
round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee,  
and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest  
mortal eye can scan,  
can it be that thou regardest  
songs of sinful man?  
Can we know that thou art near us,  
and wilt hear us? Yea, we can.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices  
in our choicest psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Blessèd Trinity.  
Of the best that thou hast given  
earth and heaven render thee.

*Please be seated*

### **Welcome and Greeting**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

### **Celebration**

*Recognising the achievements of the choristers*

### **We say sorry**

In all our services we take time to think about things that have gone wrong, even on a happy day like this. Mothering Sunday is not happy for everyone: some people here might not have a mother anymore, some might be unable to be mothers, some may have lost a child through death, or lost contact with a child for any number of reasons. Others may have had an unhappy childhood and have painful memories. So as part of saying sorry we are going to think of these situations.

## **We take time to pray**

We pray for those who might be sad  
because they have no children.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sad for those who have no mother.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sad because we have been hurt by others.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sad for all the hurts in God's world.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sorry because we have hurt other people.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We are sorry that we have ignored  
the needs of the world.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We are sorry that we have forgotten  
God's great love for us.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

### **Words of Forgiveness**

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

*All* **Amen.**

### **A special prayer for Mothering Sunday**

Loving God, you sent your Son to be part of a human  
family. Strengthen us as we share family life together,  
in our homes and in our church, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **We listen to a reading from Scripture**

For the word of the Lord,

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

*Please stand as you are able*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled:

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our sacrifice of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our sacrifice of praise.*

For the church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love,

*Refrain*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our sacrifice of praise.*

## **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand as you are able*

*After the reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**All: Praise to you O Christ**

**We engage with what we just heard**

*Please be seated*

## **We respond to what we have learned**

*Please stand as you are able*

Today we are specially thinking about being part of a family, and particularly of how God is a mother to us. Let's share together in these words:

*All* **We believe in God the Father and Mother, from whom every family in heaven and 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.**

*Please be seated*

## **Prayers for our world and one another**

*At the end of the prayers we pray together:*

**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.**

## **The Peace**

*Please stand as you are able*

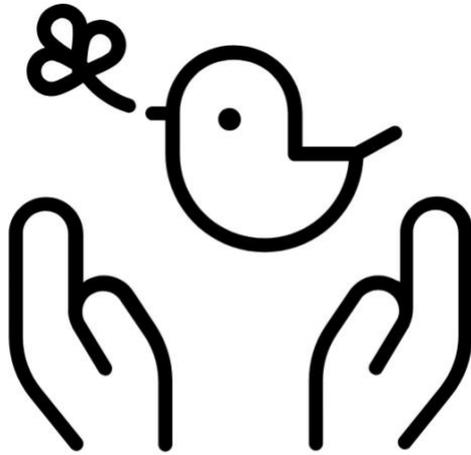
God makes peace within us - let us claim it.

God makes peace between us - let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*You may wish to turn to someone near you and say, 'Peace be with you'. Or you may wish to wave, give a hug, or shake hands with someone you know well.*



## **Offertory Hymn**

*Please remain standing as you are able*

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.

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.

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.

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!

## **Blessing of the flowers**

*Please be seated*

Loving God, who is both our Father and our Mother, we thank you for all the love we have known in our homes, among our friends, with God's people. Bless these flowers and, as we share them, may they remind us to be people of thanks, people of love, and people of joy in Jesus' name.

*All*   **Amen**

**The flowers are distributed**



**Flags are returned from the front of church  
(During the singing of the final hymn)**

**Hymn**

*Please stand as you are able*

Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## **The Blessing**

May God who made the whole earth, bless us.

May God who draws us all together, bless us.

May God who loves each one of us, bless us.

And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you, and all whom you love,  
this day and always.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**



Please join us for a tea and a chat following the service



A Christian presence in  
every community

**Acknowledgements:**

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