Church of St Chad

Hopwas

Morning Prayer

14th March 2021

(Mothering Sunday)

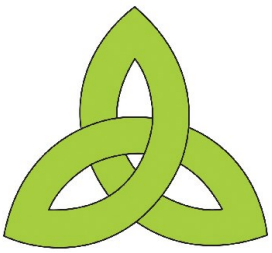
Following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Welcome

HYMN For the beauty of the earth

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom
no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify
your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Summary of the Law
Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
"The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets".
Amen. Lord, have mercy

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Silence

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives
all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYERS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Loving Father, we thank you for Mothers and we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of difficulty rather than celebration.

Silence

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died.
Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children.
Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives.
Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.
Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

Silence

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending.
Amen

FIRST READING Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN Bind us together Lord

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to JOHN (19:25b-27)

Glory to you O Lord

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 gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

Mothering Sunday

In LENT there are no flowers in the church, except for the Middle Sunday - also know as "Mothering Sunday". Mothering Sunday goes back to the time when many young people had to leave home and get a job. This started in the 16th Century when there was no such thing as schools for the ordinary people like you and like me.

Children as young as 10 would be expected to work as a servant or maid. They would usually work in a large house where they would also live. They did not live at home. Mothering Sunday was a holiday for these youngsters and on this day they were allowed to go home and visit their family. They would take a gift of flowers or a cake for their mothers and go to church as a family.

People would visit their Home Church; their "Mother" Church, which is where this particular day got its name. As everyone went to church this day also became a family reunion day. Mothering Sunday is also known as Mother's Day in many parts of the world and also has many other names and I list but a few.

1. *Refreshment Sunday* - A relaxation of Lenten vows on this particular Sunday was allowed.

2. *Simnel Sunday* - A Simnel cake is associated with Mothering Sunday. It is decorated with 11 balls made from almond paste representing the apostles (minus Judas)

3. *Mid Lent Sunday* - This is the middle Sunday of our season of Lent

4. *Pudding Pie Sunday* - The pudding-pie comes from Surrey in England where it is tradition to eat a type of pudding pie usually made with raisins.

Mothering Sunday is a time for celebrating our mothers and grandmothers. A time for re-bonding and celebrating with our children and our grandchildren.

This Pandemic has destroyed any notion of these sort of family celebrations. In a lot of cases this Pandemic has prevented and denied these family relationships that for many people are so vital in their lives.

Some people, much more than normal I suspect, will find this day hard to bear but the fact that we can share this service today in church though still very restricted by Covid is a sign of hope. A sign of Spring returning a sign that our days in this abject Covid wilderness are finally coming to an end. A sign that we will once again be able engage in our humanity in all its fullness.

When Jesus presents his mother *to the disciple whom Jesus loved* (as the gospel puts it), at the foot of the cross, a new family was formed. This family comes out of a place of tragedy, a place of love and a place of faith.

As we too begin to emerge from our place of tragedy, we are reminded in the letter to the Colossians that *we should clothe ourselves with love*, which the writer says *binds everything together in perfect harmony. And whatever we do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

AMEN

HYMN Beauty for Brokenness

CREED

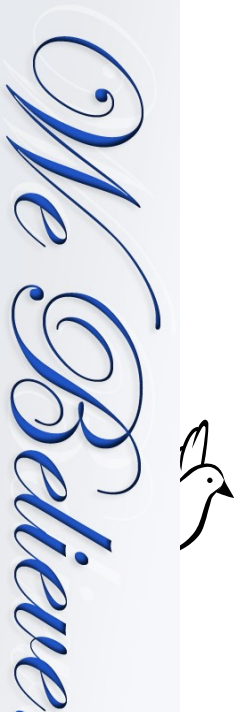
We say together in faith

Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.



PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries,
let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right
to be called children of God.
Help us to show your love in our homes
that they may be places of love, security and truth.

God of love - **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, Jesus, your Son,
was born into the family of Mary and Joseph;
bless all parents and all who care for children;
strengthen those families living under stress and
may your love be known where no human love is found.

God of love - **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church.
We pray that all may find in her their true home;
that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected
may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

God of love - **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world
we pray for healing among the nations;
for food where there is hunger;
for freedom where there is oppression;
for joy where there is pain;
that your love may bring peace to all your children
Amen

LORDS PRAYER

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen

HYMN All my hope on God is founded

THE GRACE

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day and forever more. Amen

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

If you are able to access our church website you can find us on:
www.stchadhopwas.co.uk

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