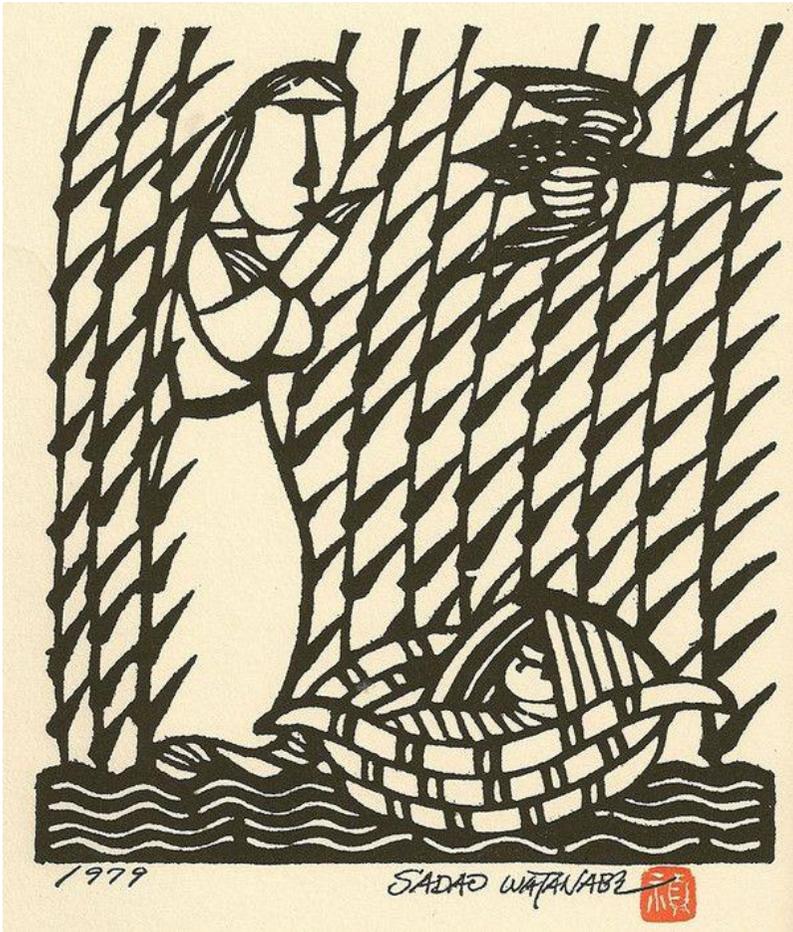


The Blyth Valley
Team Ministry

**Mothering Sunday
14th March
2021**

*Called to Mother in a
Broken World*



The Gathering

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Welcome:

Traditionally today is a time to celebrate our “mother churches”, and those people and places which have nurtured our faith. This seems particularly poignant this year, as we return to our churches for worship following the latest lockdown. We are reunited in person with some of our church family, which is a joy. Yet the joy is tinged with sadness. As we remember our own mothers, or the people who brought us up, we are very aware that most of us are still separated from our families and do not yet know when we will see each other again. As we celebrate motherhood, we also remember that many have seen their family life changed forever by the death of a loved one this year. During extended periods of lockdown, family life for many has become a strain or even unsafe. In Christ, we are given both comfort and family. We come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God’s help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, struggling with the impact of the Covid pandemic. We come to receive love and hope from the God of compassion and mercy.

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 provid-
ing 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 to-
gether
even through our own brokenness.

All Amen

Prayer of Preparation

Leader: 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.

Prayer of Penitence

Leader: We have failed to nurture the needy,

All: Lord, have mercy.

*Leader: 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

Leader: 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

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. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

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

Exodus 2.1-10

Make a 'basket' with your fingers. The 'hand-basket' is a symbol of the way in which adult and child care for each other.



Gospel Reading

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.

John 19.25b-27

Sermon or Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Eve our first mother , we thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth , we thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.

Hagar, we thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you.

Rebecca, we thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.

Rachel , you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children - children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.

Jochebed, you used wisdom and insight to protect your children. Give to all mothers this wisdom and insight in the bringing up of their children, especially in vulnerable times.

Naomi and Ruth, you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.

Mary, the new Eve whose 'yes' to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God's most precious Son.

Loving Lord,
We thank you for all mothers and carers around the world,
and for all they do for their children.
We thank you for their patience when we don't get things right.
We thank you for their encouragement when we find life hard.
We pray that all mothers, foster mothers and carers would feel really special today
and that you would remind us every day to show them as much love and help as they give to us.

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.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a socially-distanced sign of peace.

The Dismissal

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.

Amen.

Blessing

Let us go from here rejoicing
that God loves us and
welcomes us with open arms.
As the children of God
we take his love into the world
that others may also rejoice
and be part of his family. Amen

May the love of the Father fill our hearts;
May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes;
And may the grace of the Holy Spirit
bind us together in love
in our families and communities.
And may the blessing of God be with you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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This service has been adapted from the service prepared by St Mellitus College, for use by the Mothers' Union.

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