

A Short Act of Worship, Sunday 14 March 2021 (Mothering Sunday)

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God's Word:

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.

(Colossians 3: 12-17)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn 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.

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

For each perfect Gift of thine, to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth, and buds of Heaven:

For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of Love:

Our prayers

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth.

For peace in the world ... that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ... for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected.

For those whom we have injured or offended
and for grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness.

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence prayer and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven, (or) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name ... hallowed be thy name ...

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, Amen

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.

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