St Andrew’s, Chesterton
Family Service
14 March 2021
Mothering Sunday

We gather
“As a mother comforts her child, so shall I myself comfort you:” says the Lord. *Isaiah  66:13*

As God’s people we have gathered:
**Let us worship God together.**
O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

We sing

1 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 sacrifice of praise.*

2 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:

3 For the joy of human love,
   brother, sister, parent, child,
   friends on earth, and friends above,
   for all gentle thoughts and mild:

4 For each perfect gift of thine,
   to our race so freely given,
   graces human and divine,
   flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
   *Lord of all, to thee we raise
   this our sacrifice of praise.*

   Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)⁹
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We say sorry

Let us be still before the Lord
Rest quietly in his presence
Listen
Let us bring before the Lord
the words that may have hurt
and all those left unsaid;
the anger we have felt
and resentment we have fed.
Let us be still before the Lord
Rest quietly in his presence
Listen
The Lord is slow to anger
willing to forgive
full of Grace.
Draw near to him
rest quietly in his presence
Listen.

We receive God’s forgiveness
We say the prayer for the day

God of compassion,
As a mother hen gathers her chicks,
so you draw the whole human family to yourself.
Bring us together now, Lord,
that we may today and forever be united under
your wing
in all our sorrows and joys.
Amen

We listen to a poem read by a great-grandmother

We listen to the recent experience of a mother

We listen to the Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 19.25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his
mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene. 24 When Jesus saw his mother and
the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said
to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” 27 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.

We think about what God is saying to us

We sing

1 For Mary, Mother of our Lord,
   God’s holy name be praised,
   who first the Son of God adored,
   as on her child she gazed.

2 Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,
   though hard the task assigned,
   and by the Holy Ghost conceived
   the Saviour of mankind.

3 She gave her body as God’s shrine,
   her heart to piercing pain;
   she knew the cost of love divine,
   when Jesus Christ was slain.

4 Dear Mary, from your lowliness
   and home in Galilee
   there comes a joy and holiness
   to every family.

5 Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
   above all women blest;
   and blest your Son, whom your embrace
   in birth and death confessed.

John Raphael Peacey (1896–1971)

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We affirm our faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on 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.

We pray

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We say the Lord’s Prayer

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.

We share news and notices

We sing

1 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.

2 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.

Nun danket alle Gott
Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

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We receive God’s blessing

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