

*Welcome to worship on
Mothers Day
10 May. 2020*



Welcome to this morning's worship

Welcome to our scattered, but gathered community. We may not be able to touch with our hands, but we can join our hearts and our voices. We may not see each other's face, but we can hold one another in our prayers. So let us come together before our God.

Call to worship

Koriri te manu

The bird sings

Takiri mai i te ata

The morning has dawned

Ka ao ka ao ka awatea

The day has broken

Tihei mauri ora.

Behold there is life.



Song

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the One Light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.

We light a candle

to remember all mothers, and all those who act as mothers – grandparents and neighbours, fathers and and aunties, school teachers and encouragers.

We thank you for your love and nurturing.

We praise God for you all.

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,
Thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving
because they have no mother;

be close to those who are struggling
because they have no children.

Be present with those in despair
because they cannot cope with family life;

be near to those who are sad
because they are far away from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home,
and help your church have eyes to see
and ears to hear the needs of all who come.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



A Prayer for ourselves

O God, we are tired.

We are tired of lockdown and the insides of our living rooms;
tired of closed shops and endless walks around the block;
tired of having the kids under our feet
- or tired of not being able to see the kids at all.

We are tired of technology that doesn't work properly

- or tired of not having the technology that would let us connect with others.

We are tired of money troubles, Covid troubles, family troubles...

and so very tired of being told how lucky we are, even though we do know it.

Let me sit in your shadow, O God,
under your mothering wing.

Let me cuddle up and rest my head against you
so I can pour out my frustration,
and feel your loving acceptance.

Thank you, God.

Yes, I do know you understand.

Thank you for that loving hand on my shoulder.

Yes – I do feel better, more encouraged.

Can I come back again tonight?

Amen

Readings: Verses from the prophet Isaiah: 49:13 – 16a; 66:13
Luke 2:40-51

Reflection



Prayers for others

Nurturing God,

we pray for all parents raising children today

we pray for teachers inspiring children to learn

we pray for those who are struggling to support their families

we pray for those who work to care for our world

we pray for those who enrich our lives

and thank you for them.

Amen

Dismissal

It is time to turn and face the world again.
Know that our Mothering God has her arms around you.
Take the words of this benediction and the song that follows
and let them raise you up in the coming week.

Benediction

God the Creator births and nurtures you;
God the Companion calls you by name
and leads you out;
God the Life-giver sustains you on life's journey
and will never abandon you.

Go from this time of worship
with the assurance of God's love.

Song: You raise me up

When I am down, and, oh, my soul, so weary
When troubles come, and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas
I am strong when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be



Acknowledgements to:

Eleanor Farjeon and Cat Stevens for Morning has broken
Southwell Anglican Diocese for the Prayer for Mothering Sunday and Phoebe
Nicholson for reading it

Penny and David Guy for the Bible readings

Viv Whimster for the prayers for others

Wesley Mothers Day Service 2014 for the Benediction

New Zealand Herald for the photo of Dame Whina Cooper

Rolf Løvland and Brendan Graham for You raise me up, sung by the group, Abbas