

# Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



**Family Service and Eucharist on  
Mothering Sunday**

## **Introduction Eucharist**

Welcome to our services on Mothering Sunday.

Our service comes from the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Exton in the Meon Valley in Hampshire.

We might pause to remind ourselves that the Annunciation to Mary, Mothering Sunday, Refreshment or Laetare Sunday are intricately linked; and, that the notion of the Church mothering us reflects God's own mothering of all his children. God is forgiving, gracious and loving, slow to anger, and abounding in goodness. We can now place ourselves and all our cares into God's loving hands.

Please remember in your prayers places of violence, famine or warfare, among them: The Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar. We have seen the military in Myanmar clamping down on peaceful protests with violence. The picture of a nun kneeling before the police, begging them not to shoot protesters is one that we cannot forget.

Tomorrow is 'Burma Day and we in the free world, should act in any way we can to support of the courage shown by Myanmar's people. Perhaps, we can call on our politicians to act too in response to the military coup.

We can join in prayer with key figures in Myanmar and the UK in the Burma Day of Prayer on Monday at 7pm. (<https://www.csw.org.uk/burmadayofprayer>).

Please continue to pray for the NHS, care-workers, vaccinators and scientists, and for all key workers, who are still working so hard to keep us safe.

# Our Services for Mothering Sunday

(This booklet supports the Eucharist and the Family Service of the Word)

## Praising and Thanking God

### Opening Hymn: For The Beauty Of The Earth

- 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,

Refrain:

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: [Refrain]

- 3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled: [Refrain]

- 4 For each perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven: [Refrain]

- 5 For thy church which evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love, [Refrain]

Meter: 77 77 77

#### **For The Beauty Of The Earth**

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917)

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ENGLAND'S LANE

Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879 – 1943)

adapted from a traditional English melody

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## Liturgy of the Word for Mothering Sunday

### Praising god for Mothers

*A large candle may be lit. Could place an advent rose candle in the Paschal Candle stand for this.*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### Confession and Absolution

#### The Collects

#### The Collect for Mothering Sunday

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 for ever.

**Amen**

#### The Collect for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Lent

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from their offences,  
that through your bountiful goodness  
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins  
which by our frailty we have committed;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **The Lenten Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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 for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. <sup>7</sup>Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' <sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

*Exodus 2.1-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm or Canticle

Our canticle in place of the Psalm is the Song of St Anselm

**R Gather your little ones to you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.**

- 1 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
- 2 Often you weep over our sins and our pride,  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
- 3 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,  
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
- 4 Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;  
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

**R Gather your little ones to you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.**

- 5 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
- 6 Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
your touch makes sinners righteous.
- 7 Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.
- 8 In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

*from Anselm of Canterbury*

**R Gather your little ones to you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Second Reading

A Reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, <sup>4</sup>who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

*2 Cor 1.3-7*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn: What child is this?

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
this, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise  
the babe, the son of Mary.
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
all tongues and peoples own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Meter: 87 87 68 67

Key: E minor

### What child is this?

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

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GREENSLEEVES

Traditional English Melody

Attributed to Henry VIII, King of England (1491 – 1547)

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## Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the Temple;

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was being said about Jesus.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,  
'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed  
<sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -  
and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Luke 2.33-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

The Bible's stories of mothering are never twee, sentimental or saccharine.

We have just heard the story in Exodus of baby Moses having to be hidden in the rushes and for his mother being forced to give him over to Pharaoh's daughter and to pretend to be a wet nurse.

What words would we use to describe Moses' mother? Cunning, or determined, desperate, or protective, nurturing (i.e. the 'wet nurse').

In the Luke reading about Mary presenting Jesus in the Temple. Mary is faithful, responsible, aware of the double-edged sword of caring – the joys of this special motherhood and yet being at his side as he was crucified.

In the Gospels, Mary is still present even in sorrow, faithful, grieving, caring and cared-for, showing love that is stronger than death itself. Mothering is all those things and more.

Without someone to do those things for us; without someone to look out for our interests, to defend us, to protect us; without someone to enable us to learn our purpose in life, without someone to model trust, faith and joy; without someone who will love us enough to let us go our own way; without someone to take the risk of loving us, even knowing that that love may bring them pain; without someone to stand with us in our times of greatest suffering; without someone to do those things for us, we are missing something crucial.

What's more, if we ourselves have nobody for whom we can do these things, we are also missing out.

At Christmas in other years, we have the joy of seeing children at a Christingle service; an old Moravian tradition, introduced into the UK by the Children's Society in the 1960s. The Children's Society is a CofE organisation that seeks to do some of these things for disadvantaged children who would otherwise never experience this kind of mothering:

protecting children in danger,

being an advocate for children in trouble with the law,

enabling children who are struggling to reach their God-given potential,

taking a risk and

investing in the future of children in the knowledge that they must have their own integrity and yet at the same time walking with them on their journey of self-discovery, and affirming that all children are, in the words of Moses' mother in Exodus "beautiful before God".

The Children's Society often discovers, even in times of better oversight of children, situations of extreme suffering, tragedy and crisis, they find new and life-giving ways of creating family and community, just as Jesus did from the cross when he asked his mother and his best friend, John, to care for each other when he had gone.

Think about your own lives – your experiences of mothering or of being mothered; remembering with thanksgiving the people who have done those things for us. Perhaps also remember the times when, sadly, we have been failed by those who were supposed to care for us, or those times when we ourselves have failed.

If mothering were only done by mothers, it would be very hard indeed to ensure that everyone received the nurturing, protection, love, sacrifice and guidance that we need to become the people we are meant to be.

As a church community, we are called into a role of mothering that sometimes might need to be just as desperate, fierce, loyal, grieving as the mothers in today's readings.

If we, as a church, truly love the community in which we are situated, just as God loves it and if we are to be God's holy people for God's needy world, then we will feel the pain of the world's suffering, and we will be willing to sacrifice something of ourselves in order to bring to birth God's purposes for the world.

On the cross, God's love is nailed firmly to the world so as never to let it go.

Is our love for the world as firmly fixed as this?

Are we this passionate about nurturing the world into becoming the place that God created it to be?

A truly parental love is one that would give anything and everything for the child.

This is the love of God that we see on the cross, but this is also the love that we are called to have for one another, and which the Church is called to have for the world. When we love like that, we make our Mothering-God visible in the world. Amen.

## **Affirmation of Faith**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*As well as specific seasonal intentions, the prayers on Sundays and Feast Days usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

*The Church of Christ*

*Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

*The local community*

*Those who suffer*

*The communion of saints*

*These or seasonal responses may be used*

## **The Peace**

## **Prayer for Mothers**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

For the care of mothers;

**All Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;

**All Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;

**All Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;

**All Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;

**All Thanks be to God.**

**All Thank you God for the love of our mothers:  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Amen.**

## **The Blessing at the end of the Family Service**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

### **The Northumbrian Blessing**

**All May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.**

**May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.**

**May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.**

**May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:

May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.

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

**All Amen.**

## Offertory Hymn: **Our Father God in Heaven**

- 1 Our Father God in heaven  
on whom our world depends,  
to you let praise be given  
for families and friends;  
for parents, sisters, brothers,  
a home where love belongs,  
but on this day for mothers  
we bring our thankful songs.
- 2 What wealth of God's bestowing  
for all the world to share!  
what strength of heart outgoing  
to children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows  
a mother's path must trace,  
and earth's unknown tomorrows  
are held in her embrace.
- 3 How well we know the story  
that tells of Jesus' birth,  
the Lord of heaven's glory  
become a child of earth;  
a helpless infant sleeping,  
yet King of realms above,  
to find in Mary's keeping  
the warmth of human love.
- 4 Our Father God in heaven,  
to you we lift our prayer,  
that every child be given  
such tenderness and care,  
where life is all for others,  
where love your love displays:  
for God's good gift of mothers  
let earth unite in praise!  
Meter: 76 76 D  
Key: A Major

### **Our Father God in heaven**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

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ELLACOMBE

Anon., *Württembergischer Gesangbuch* (1784) and  
*Gesangbuch*, Mainz, 1833 and *Gesangbuch*, St Gallen, 1863

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# The Holy Eucharist

## Liturgy of the Sacrament for Mothering Sunday

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

*Agnus Dei*

Prayer of Humble Access

Holy Communion

### ACT OF SPIRITUAL RECEPTION

*The people who are unable to remain for the Eucharist may say:*

In union, dear Father, with Christian people  
throughout the world  
and across the centuries gathered  
to make Eucharist,  
hearing your holy Word and  
receiving the Precious Body and Blood,  
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from  
tasting the Bread of Heaven  
and drinking the Cup of Life  
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised  
and with your Son who gave his life for us. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me  
and send your Holy Spirit  
that I may be filled with your presence.

### Post-Communion Hymn: I Come with Joy

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,



unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.

- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

Meter: CM

Key: Eb Major

**I Come with Joy**

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

ST BOTOLPH

Gordon Archbold Slater (1896 – 1979)

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**Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

¶ **The Dismissal**

*The ministers and people depart.*

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: Let All The World in Every Corner Sing**

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly,  
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;  
But, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Meter: 10 4 66 66 10 4

**Let All The World in Every Corner Sing**

George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

LUCKINGTON

Basil Harwood (1859 – 1949)

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## **MUSIC**

### **Mass Setting**

© David Thorne -**The Mass of St Thomas**

© played by John Key and both acknowledged with thanks.

### **Hymns**

#### **Opening Voluntary**

##### *Eucharist*

AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM, a traditional German tune by an anonymous composer, published in Johannes Leisentritt's *Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum*, Cologne (1584). Public Domain. Performance © 2021 Richard M S Irwin. All Rights Reserved. ISRC UKTU21900296

##### *Family*

Abba Father, by Dave Bilbrough (b. 1965). Copyright © 1977 Kingsway's Thankyou Music. Recorded with permission. Performance © 2021 Richard M S Irwin. ISRC UKTU21900284

#### **For The Beauty Of The Earth**

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917)

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##### ENGLAND'S LANE

Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879 – 1943)

adapted from a traditional English melody

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#### **What child is this?**

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898) Public Domain

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Traditional English Meolody

Attributed to Henry VIII, King of England (1491 – 1547)

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© Timothy Dudley-Smith

for Europe and Africa

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Brian Wren (b. 1936)

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Gordon Archbold Slater (1896 – 1979)  
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George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

LUCKINGTON

Basil Harwood (1859 – 1949)  
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### **Closing Voluntary**

*Eucharist*

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*Family*

Bind us together, composer Bob Gillman. Arranged with permission by Richard M S Irwin. Music Copyright © 1977  
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