

Morning Worship 10th March 2024 – Mothering Sunday

Welcome and gathering worship

I shall bless the Lord at all times: his praise will ever be on my lips.
In the Lord I shall glory; the humble will hear and be glad.
Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
(Psalm34:1-3)

Hymns of praise:

LORD, YOU ARE MORE PRECIOUS than silver,
Lord, You are more costly than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with You.

LOOK AND SEE THE GLORY OF THE KING,
Sense the presence of the Lord amongst His people.
Feel Him fill the temple of our lives
As He sits upon the throne of our praise.

We are His church,
We are all God's own people.
We all proclaim that He is King, He is King.

At God's right hand
Jesus Christ is exalted.
His rule is now, and shall be forever more.

Flames – *We pray for our children and their leaders as they go out.*

We prepare our hearts and confess our sins

Glorious God, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are
your ways our ways

You look at the ugliest soul and see, still unstirred, the wings of an angel.

We scan the finest of our neighbours and look for the flaw.

You view time in the context of eternity and so find a place for waiting, for yearning, even for suffering, for dying

We demand instant results, and look for tomorrow before savouring today

You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save, that is why you walk the way of the cross

We fear that vulnerability which defies our power; that is why we allow for crucifixion

Your thoughts are not our thoughts

Neither are your ways our ways

And yet we know that your way is the ladder to heaven, while left to our own devices our ways slope downwards towards hell
But we are here not to have our worst confirmed but to have our best liberated

So we pray:

Forgive in us what has gone wrong, repair in us what is wasted, reveal in us what is good. And nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase: your word, your love, your inspiration, your daily bread for our life's journey, in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Collect prayer for today:

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. Amen

Hymn

MY LORD, WHAT LOVE IS THIS

That pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one,
May go free!

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God given for me.
My debt He pays, and my death He dies,
That I might live, that I might live.
(Last time only) That I might live!*

And so they watched Him die,
Despised, rejected;
But oh, the blood He shed
Flowed for me!

And now, this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away,
Live again!

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:33-35

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Hymn

RESTORE, O LORD,

The honour of Your name,

In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That men may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here.

Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That men may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Our belief

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.

Prayers of intercession

(at the end) Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

The children return and share what they have been doing

Flower posies are blessed and distributed as we sing:

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR THIS FINE DAY,

Thank You, Lord, for this fine day,

Thank You, Lord, for this fine day,

Right where we are.

Alleluia, praise the Lord!

Alleluia, praise the Lord!

Alleluia, praise the Lord,

Right where we are.

Thank You, Lord, for loving us ... (etc.)

Thank You, Lord, for giving us peace ... (etc.)

Thank You, Lord, for setting us free ... (etc.)

Notices

Closing hymn:

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! great things He hath done!

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;

And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!

To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son:
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and all those you love in time and in eternity **Amen.**

