

Mothering Sunday Service

14th March

Lizzy leads and preaches. This Mothering Sunday we embrace the femininity of God and hear women's voices.

Welcome and Opening Words

I Come by Angela Ashwin

I come to you, God, in awe and wonder; grant me the grace to go on seeking.

I listen for you in this strange land of silence; open my heart to your still, small voice.

I turn my face towards your glory; purify my soul in your light.

Source of my being, whom I know yet do not know, keep me still in the cloud of your presence.

Song

Song: Light of the world Hillsong

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes, Let me see

Beauty that made this heart adore you

Hope of a life spent with you

King of all days

So highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above

Humbly you came to the earth you created

All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship

Here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that you're my God

You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy

Altogether wonderful to me

Chorus

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus

Words of Praise (Karissa)

My Magnificat by Joan Broussard

My soul dances with joy at the sound of the Father calling my name.

I go to Him, unafraid and trusting, and rest myself.

I am home at last.

Thank you my Jesus, my Christ, for making the way that I might delight in my Father's company.

You, O Lord, are my salvation, my refuge, my sanctuary.

No enemy can reach me here as long as I remain with you.

It is in you alone, my Heavenly Father, that I place my trust and my hope.

It is you I love.

You satisfy every desire of my heart.

I want to worship you all the days of my life.

Let me never be put to shame because my sin has come between us.

Show me your ways Father.

Show me your heart.

Let all that I am love you more each day.

I desire Your will for me Father, Your will.

All this I pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Saviour. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception. We fail to live as your children. **Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good. **Christ, have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord enrich you with grace, nourish you with blessing; defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil. The Lord accept your prayers, absolve you of your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Song

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You,

I want to see You.

(Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love,

As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy holy holy,

I want to see You.

Paul Baloche

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Bible Reading: John 19:25b-27 (Elizabeth)

Sermon

Words of Affirmation

We believe in God the source of love,

Who created humanity in God's own image and likeness,

Who blessed them and asked them to procreate, nurture and preserve God's creation for prosperity.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate,

Who was born of a woman and was a carpenter,

Who identified himself with women, men and children

Transforming them to have life abundantly.

We believe in the Holy Spirit active before creation,

Who through the ages has inspired numberless Christians,

Who continues to inspire us to usher in the reign of God,

Where no one feels cast out, lonely or bereft.

This is our God. Our Mother, our parent, our friend, our Saviour.

Song Linda Currin © 2007

Mothering God, you gave us birth,
Carried and cradled, taught our worth;

Companion to each joy, each hurt.

Tender your love for me,

Oh tender your love for me.

Mothering Spirit, gentle, strong,

Teaching us where our hearts belong;

Guide of our lives, breath of our song.

Tender your love for me,

Oh tender your love for me.

Mothering Christ, what grace we read,

Giving your body for our need;

Wine to refresh and bread to feed.

Tender your love for me,

Oh tender your love for me.

Mothering God, about your feet

Sisters and brothers here we meet;

Only together each complete.

Tender your love for me,

Oh tender your love for me.

Prayers of Intercession (young people)

**Our mother who is among us,
We dare not try to name you.
Your reign of love made real,
On earth and in our lives.
May your longing be our longing.
Give us what we need for living today.
Forgive us for not loving ourselves, and for not being as loving to others as you are to us.
Be near to us in our trials, and birth within us what it takes to confront evil.
For yours is the family of love we claim as our power and honour. Amen.**

Song

MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH,
And the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus:
And the deeds of the day,
And the truth in my ways,
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus.

*For this is what I'm glad to do,
It's time to live a life of love
That pleases You.
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have and follow You,
I'll follow You.*

Lord, will You be my vision,

Lord, will You be my guide:
Be my hope, be my light, and the way?
And I'll look not for riches,
Nor praises on earth,
Only You'll be the first of my heart.

*For this is what I'm glad to do,
It's time to live a life of love
That pleases You.
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have and follow You,
I'll follow You.*

I will follow, I will follow You. (x4)

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Notices

Blessing and Dismissal

May God who dreams her dreams in you
Who sings in the swirling air and dances in the moving tides
Who beckons in the glowing fire and caresses in the soft earth
Bless you to know your own power
Delight you with your heart's desire
Nurture you in all your journeying and becoming
Guide you home
And the blessing of God, our Mother, brother and friend be with you and all whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**