

St Andrew's Church, Bedford



MOTHERING SUNDAY

**Eucharist for the Fourth
Sunday of Lent**

WELCOME!

On this fourth Sunday of Lent we give thanks for our own mothers, for Mary the mother of Jesus, and for God's care for us. It can be a day of mixed feelings, a day of celebration and rejoicing in parenthood, alongside sadness for those of us whose mothers have died or whose family relationships are strained. In the middle of this we remember that all human love is a share, a reflection, of God's amazing love for each of us, poured out in Jesus on the cross. As a church community, we are called to the task of mothering, showing God's love to all people of the world, especially the young, poor and vulnerable.

How to follow the various parts of the service:

You can use this booklet to follow the service. The following symbols will help you to stand, sit or kneel at the times which are usual in this church; if you find it more comfortable to sit throughout, please do so.



For Younger Worshippers

Our children's groups meet today in the Main Hall on Sunday mornings. Children very welcome to the group for games, stories, crafts and prayer. The children will join us in church before Communion.

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Opening Hymn



The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Praise God who loves us.

All **Praise God who cares.**



Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Confession

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.

All **Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good.

We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.

We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**



Kyrie

Lord, have mercy.

All ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy.

All ♪ **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

All ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**



Absolution

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal
love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and 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 bring 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 forever.

All **Amen.**



Readings

At the end of each the reader says

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn



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.**

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

All ♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All ♪ **Praise to you O Christ.**

All ♪ **Bless the Lord, my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**



Sermon



Creed

All **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

We may use these responses:

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**



The prayers may end:

All **Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**



The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of peace



Offertory Hymn



Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord be with you

All ♪ **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All ♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All ♪ **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

All **You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**



In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

All **He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

All **As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**



The Lord's Prayer

All 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.



Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

All ♪ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.



The Distribution

If you receive Communion at your own church, please do come and share bread and wine with us today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, come forward, bringing this service book with you.



Hymns

Anthem



Prayer after Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children
at the breast, you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**



Blessing of the Flowers

Almighty God, you are the Mother of all,
the source of all life and all beauty,
the fountain of all love and nurture:
bless these flowers
that they may be signs of love and gratitude for our mothers
and inspire us to grow as your family, the church,
in compassion and service,
we make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**



A Prayer for our Mothers

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 mothers:
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared for 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.**



Final Hymn

During the singing of this hymn, the children are invited to come forward to collect posies of flowers and distribute them among the congregation.



The Blessing

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you;
may God, who became incarnate
by an earthly mother, bless you;
may God, who broods as a mother over her children,
bless you.

May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**



The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

There are vases in front of the altar if you would like to place your flowers there after the service in memory of a mother who has died.

