



St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



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*22nd March 2020
Mothering Sunday*

Hello Everyone

To help us maintain our sense of fellowship and church community, here is the list of readings for this Sunday, March 22nd, the collect for the week, a very short reflection on Mothering Sunday and a Blessing.

Readings

Old Testament: Exodus 2:1-10

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Gospel: Luke 2:33-35

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. Amen.

Reflection:

When I first looked at the Gospel reading for Mothering Sunday and saw that it basically consists of Simeon warning Mary when she came to the Temple to present Jesus that a sword would pierce her soul, my first reaction was how inappropriate given that today we are supposed to be honouring motherhood.

And yet today – possibly for the first time in the Church's history in this country – we cannot meet together to worship our Lord and Saviour and celebrate our shared fellowship in the bread and the wine of the Eucharist.

In these circumstances it is no exaggeration to say that a sword has pierced the soul of the mother church and reminds us that today – as well as being a day of celebration, of thankfulness and of coming together for many, many families – is also a difficult day for many.

It can be hard for those who have had difficult relationships with their mothers, for mothers who have had difficult relationships with their children, for those who have wanted to be mothers but for whom it hasn't happened for whatever reason, for those who have lost children and for those who have lost mothers in difficult circumstances. While that is all true, we should not forget that Jesus also reminds us in Matthew 23:37 how He longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing. What a wonderful image of God as Mother as well as Father for us to hold on to at a time when we are trying to navigate our way through such uncharted waters.



Intercessions:

Lord God, may we put our trust in you more than ever at this critical time. Give wisdom to leaders around the world and their advisers as they seek to do their very best to minimise the risks to the health of as many people as possible. Help us to set aside our differences to work for the common good.

We pray on this day especially for mothers and all the particular gifts they have and share.

We bring before you for all those in special need of Your love and care at this time, especially those in our church families who have asked for our prayers. And finally we remember those in our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week and ask You to fill those they have left behind with Your unending peace. Amen.

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.

And (may) the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Reverend Peter

SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer daily liturgies are available at:

www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices

Rev's Christine and Peter will be saying Morning Prayer @ 9am and Evening Prayer @ 6pm each day in their own homes and invite you to join in from yours

For the coming week beginning Sunday 22nd March.

Morning Prayer we will be using the form: Returning to God on p. 17. Follow the psalm set for the day. The Benedictus antiphon will be 5th week.

Evening Prayer we will be using the form: Returning to God on p. 52. Follow the psalm set for the day. The Benedictus antiphon will be 5th week.

Readings for the Day – for both Morning and Evening – choose 1 or 2 for each service

Sunday –	Exodus 6: 2 – 13	Romans 5: 1 - 11	John 12: 1 – 8
Monday –	Genesis 49: 1 – 28	1 Corinthians 10: 14 – 11: 1	Mark 7: 24 – 37
Tuesday –	Genesis 49: 29 – 50: 14	1 Corinthians 11: 17 – 34	Mark 8: 1 – 10
Wednesday –	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – SEE BELOW		
Thursday –	Exodus 1: 6 – 22	1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 26	Mark 8: 27 – 9:1
Friday –	Exodus 2: 1 – 22	1 Corinthians 12: 27 – 13: 3	Mark 9: 2 – 13
Saturday –	Exodus 3: 1 – 22	1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13	Mark 9: 14 – 29

The Collect of the Day is the same each day for both Morning and Evening Prayer

Almighty God, grant that we, who are weighed down by our sins, may be relieved and encouraged by your grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Wednesday – The Annunciation of the Lord – Festivals on p41 for Morning Prayer and p76 for Evening Prayer. The psalm for Mary and the Benedictus Antiphon for Mary.

Readings –Morning: Isaiah 52: 7 – 12 Hebrews 2: 5 – 10

Evening: Wisdom 9: 1 – 12 John 1: 9 – 14

Collect – Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord: that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel to the Blessed Virgin Mary; so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Each day we pray for:

The world: people, governments and leaders of the countries and specific issues arising in the news. Issues relating to social justice, peace, suffering and creation.

Our wider church, the SEC, our diocese, individual churches.

Our community – residents in our area. For those with no faith, we pray for their introduction to the Christian faith, and for those with faith, that their faith may develop further.

Those known to us who are unwell or in need.

Our own church communities.

