

**Mothering Sunday Facebook Service**  
*14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Hope-Emmanuel-St John’s*

*Adam – Words of Welcome*

**Mothering Sunday Praise**

Gracious God,  
as a mother loves her child, so you love us.  
For that great truth:  
**we praise and thank you.**

We owe our very lives to you.  
You have watched over us from our birth,  
tenderly nurturing us,  
showering us with love.  
When we have needed you, you have been there.  
For that great truth  
**we praise and thank you.**

You have given us strength in times of need,  
comfort in times of distress,  
encouragement in times of despair,  
guidance in times of uncertainty.  
Whatever we have faced, you have been with us.  
For that great truth  
**we praise and thank you.**

Gracious God,  
we have not always appreciated your love,  
all too often ignoring what you would teach us,  
disobeying your instructions,  
taking you for granted and wandering far from your side.  
Yet through it all your love has remained constant.  
For that great truth  
**we praise and thank you.**

Gracious God,  
caring for us more than you care for yourself,  
sacrificing your all for our sakes,  
loving us with an unquenchable love,

you have called us to be your children.  
For that great truth  
**we praise and thank you,  
in the name of Christ. Amen**

~ written by Nick Fawcett, in *Prayers for All Seasons* (1998),  
and posted on **Make a Mother's Day**.

### A poem

#### *First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:10-19: Hannah the mother of Samuel*

<sup>10</sup> In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

<sup>12</sup> As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk <sup>14</sup> and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”

<sup>15</sup> “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. <sup>16</sup> Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

<sup>17</sup> Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

<sup>18</sup> She said, “May your servant find favour in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

<sup>19</sup> Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup> So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.”

### Reflection 1

## ***Second Reading: Luke 2:30-38L Mary the mother of Jesus***

<sup>30</sup> The angel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

### *Reflection 2*

### *Hymn – Love Divine*

## ***Third Reading: Luke 7:11-17: The Widow of Nain***

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

<sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

### *Reflection 3*

#### ***Fourth Reading: Exodus 2:5-10: The mothers of Moses***

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. <sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup> "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

#### ***Reflection 4***

##### ***Prayers led by Adam***

That the church will live as the family of God,  
and welcome all who come in the Lord's name.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That all families will be united in God's love  
and all people treated with care and respect.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That the whole human race may seek peace  
and come to live as the family of God.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That those who are lonely or bereaved may know God's consoling love  
and the friendship of God's holy people.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That all children will be nurtured in love and safe from harm  
and their homes be aglow with the warmth of the Spirit.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That parents and all who have the care of children may be given the gifts they need and help to create a community of love.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That our community and all gathered here today may live as God's family and enable others to call God 'Father.'

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That the poor and hungry will be filled with good things and all people seek justice and love in the world.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

That our departed loved ones and all who have died may rejoice in the light of heaven.

God of love: **Hear our prayer**

*Collect for Mothering Sunday*

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We conclude by praying with confidence to the Father,  
as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,  
send us out to live and work for others.

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

— *from a collection of Mothering Sunday Prayers produced by  
Mothers Union, and posted on their website.*

*Words of Farewell – Adam*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore.  
Amen.**

*Final Hymn – 10000 Reasons (BandLab Team)*