

Worship at Home

Sunday 14th March 2021– Mothering Sunday

Prepared by Rev Gareth Erlandson, Curate



A prayer to start

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**

This week, I've been thinking about some of the different mothers in the Bible and what they can teach us about love – the love of God and the love of mothers. It would take too much space to print all of their stories here, but maybe you might like to look them up in your Bibles at home.

1. Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:10-19

“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.”

2. Mary in Luke 2:30-38

“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

3. The Widow of Nain in Luke 7:11-17

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don't cry.”

4. Moses's Two Mothers in Exodus 2:5-10

So the [baby's mother] took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses.

Thought

These stories all show how motherhood is rarely easy and is so often fraught with difficulties.

Hannah has longed to have a baby all her life but remains childless until God blesses her with her son, Samuel, in her old age.

For Mary to become pregnant at such a young age and out of wedlock, was a risk to her reputation and even her life, had Joseph chosen to cast her out. And even though Joseph didn't, being the mother of Christ was immensely difficult, culminating with witnessing her own son's horrific death on the cross.

The widow of Nain also experiences that most awful of situations – to lose one's own child.

Moses ends up in the tricky position of being raised by two women – one his biological mother and one adoptive. This would have been hard for him, but it would have been no easier for the two women involved. Mothers involved in fostering and adoption today will tell you that quite readily.

But, despite the pain and difficulty of motherhood, these women are all united by one common purpose – sacrificially and unconditionally loving the children in their care, or the children they long to have. And they are all sustained by the same thing – the unconditional love of God. That love is demonstrated by Jesus through his compassion for the Widow of Nain. This is the love we celebrate today, as we seek to imitate the compassion of Christ in our own mothering, our appreciation for our mothers and our care for those who may find a day like today rather difficult.

Prayers

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

We hope you are safe and well. Please feel free to contact Rev Adam (01978 760439) or Rev Gareth (07731 827988) if we can help. Thank you.