

**Mayfield Church**  
**w/c Sunday 22nd March 2020**  
**Mothering Sunday and Lent 4**  
**Welcome to Daily Prayers!**



**PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, child of Mary, shared the  
life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross 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 bind  
together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**WORD FOR THE WEEK**

JOHN 19.25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus  
were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary  
the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When  
Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he  
loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,  
'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the  
disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that  
hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**RESTING**

May this day bring Sabbath rest  
to my heart and my home.  
May God's image in me be restored,  
and my imagination in God be re-storied.  
May the gravity of material things be lightened,  
and the relativity of time slow down.  
May I know grace to embrace  
my own finite smallness in the caring hands of  
God's infinite greatness.  
May God's Word feed me  
and His Spirit lead me  
into the coming week  
and into the life to come.

**FAMILY**

Father, thank you for your beautiful, multicultural,  
intergenerational family, more scattered than  
gathered today, in so many countries. Revive faith  
and hope in us, and sweep our hearts clean to be a  
house of prayer, a living temple, for all nations.  
Set our hearts on fire again with the good news of  
your Good News.

**COMM-UNITY OF TRINITY**

Thank you, Father, for loving me with all your  
heart, all your soul and all your mind, and all your  
strength.

Inspire me this week to love you more with all of  
mine.

Thank you, Jesus, for your faithful and sacrificial  
friendship.

Help me this week to be a faithful and sacrificial  
friend like you..

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for listening to my many  
thoughts and words and dreams.

Still my soul this week to listen much more  
carefully to yours.

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

*Will we come out of the present situation  
reverting to how we were before, or changed?  
And in what ways?*

**Lockdown (author unknown)**

Yes, there is fear.

Yes, there is isolation.

Yes, there is panic buying.

Yes, there is sickness.

Yes, there is even death.

But ...

in Wuhan after so many years of noise you  
can hear the birds again.

After just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no  
longer thick with fumes,  
but blue and grey and clear.

In the streets of Assisi people are singing to  
each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open so that those who  
are alone may hear the sounds of family  
around them.

A hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free  
meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman in the street is busy  
spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood, so that the elderly  
may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and  
Temples are preparing to welcome and  
shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down  
and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality -  
to how big our hearts can be,  
and to how little control we really have,  
and to what really matters:  
to Love.

So ... we pray and we remember that  
Yes, there is fear,  
but there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation,  
but there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes, there is panic buying,  
but there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes, there is sickness,  
but there does not have to be disease of the soul.  
Yes, there is even death,  
but there can be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
the birds are singing again.  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul and though  
you may not be able to touch across the  
empty square ...  
... Sing.

### HYMN

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires  
us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt  
him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,

past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.  
*Timothy Dudley Smith*

### HEALING PRAYER

Gracious God who heals, I pray for all medical professionals who are daily dealing with the intense pressures of the Corona Virus crisis. Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion upon compassion as they care. I thank You for the army of researchers, working steadily and quietly towards a cure – give them clarity, serendipity and unexpected breakthroughs today. I ask that you rise above this present darkness as the sun of righteousness with healing in Your wings (Malachi 4:1) May this be my prayer:

*Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17 )*

### GRACE

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, for evermore



*Lancashire Sunday School Hymn*  
How good is the God we adore,  
Our faithful, unchangeable friend;  
His love is as great as his power,  
And knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the first and the last;  
His Spirit will guide us safe home.  
We will praise him for all that is past,  
And trust him for all that's to come.