

Mothering Sunday - 22nd March 2020

Dear All,

Now that we cannot meet together in person for Sunday worship, you can read this talk for Mothering Sunday on the next page, but if you're online I would really encourage you to wait until Sunday and watch it by clicking on the link below. It will be available to view from 10am on Sunday, so it can be part of your Sunday worship at home. Click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdqRIXSYrA-qMjxdINmT-eQ>

Every blessing,

Stuart

Mothering Sunday Talk

I'd like you to think of someone special to you, who has particularly shown love and care to you.

This might be a parent or grandparent, it might be your husband or wife, son or daughter, or another family member or friend. If you are an older person, this might be someone that you remember as you look back to your younger years or childhood. If you're a younger person, this might be someone in your family who is with you now.

Whoever they are, take a moment now, to give thanks to God for that person.

On Mothering Sunday we have an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those who love and care for us. And you may be able to say 'thank you' - perhaps in person or, for many people, over the phone today.

We had of course hoped to be together for a special Mothering Sunday united service, but instead we are having to adjust to a very different way of living, and of being church, over the coming weeks.

But even though we are not physically together, God is with us, and God loves us. We are part of his family, the body of Christ, wherever we are, however we are feeling.

When Jesus was still with his disciples, he said to them:

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-45)

Shortly before this Jesus had done something amazing to demonstrate that love in a very real way. As they shared the Passover meal together, Jesus got up, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He took water in a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel.

It was a messy thing to do, normally the job of a servant, but Jesus stooped down and did it himself, because he loved them.

Just as our mothers, or the many others who have cared for us now or in the past, have shown their love for us in sacrificial ways.

Following Jesus' command to love one another will look different for us in these challenging times, but we can still do it. Seeking to love our neighbour will look different, especially for those self-isolating, but we can still do it, through phone calls, emails, prayers, and offers of practical help. What could you do?

At this difficult time, may we be those who really seek to love one another as Jesus has loved us, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

But above all, may we know that we love because Jesus first loved us (1 John 4:19). He showed his love for us at the cross where he died for us, dealing with our sin and shame once and for all. And at the empty tomb where Jesus rose again, we find sure and certain hope of eternal life, because Jesus is alive and is with us now.

This Mothering Sunday, wherever we may be, we are part of God's family. So may we seek to love one another as Jesus loves us, and may we know his perfect love for us, which drives out fear (1 John 4:18). Amen.