

Dear friends

Happy Mothering Sunday everybody. I realize that Mothers' Day can be a bitter-sweet day for many people, and especially for those whose mothers are no longer with us. That is may harder this year, when the usual family get-togethers are not possible for a lot of people. But I pray that the day may bring some blessings and comfort, and I hope that this Mothering Sunday service, filmed at Kingsbury Church. Many thanks go to Pat and Rose whose wonderful work on the flowers in church is looking beautiful.

https://youtu.be/E5S4D1pk_mQ



Mothering Sunday Service

A Service for Mothering Sunday from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Parishes. The service was filmed in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Kingsbury.

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/E5S4D1pk_mQ)

As well as online worship, some of us today will be gathering in Kingsbury Church at 11am for the first service in the building since the beginning of the year. It is important that we make a gradual and safe return to the buildings, so please only come if you are confident that you are safe to do so, and please keep to all the rules in place to help with that. Some may prefer to wait a little longer before returning to the church buildings, and that is fine; we will continue to make the provisions for worship at home for all long as it is needed or wanted.

There is something quite fitting about Mothering Sunday being the day to resume worship in church. It was Mothering Sunday last year when public worship was first suspended. Moreover, traditionally this day is when people would return to their "mother church", making the most of a rare leave of absence granted on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. But whether at home or in church, we are united in the love of God, whose motherly care embraces us all.

As well as the usual attachments, Revd Carole has produced a Lent leaflet (thank you Carole), which has all the details of our services and other activities for Holy Week and Easter. I hope you will be able to share in those, again whether at home or in church.

Wishing you every blessing

John

Revd Dr John White

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Reflection for Mothering Sunday 2021

Exodus 2.1-10 John 19.25-27

The hardest part of love is letting go; and nowhere is that more true than in relation to the love of mothers. The maternal instinct is to nurture and protect, to embrace and enfold, to hug and to hold. It is hard when love means acting against that instinct, and releasing those we love from our arms. For many, this Mothering Sunday will be especially challenging; for the many families who are unable to be physically present with one another because of Covid, as well as the far too many families who have faced the loss of loved ones over the course of the last year. The hardest part of love is letting go.

Our two Bible readings today both speak of mothers who lovingly let go of their children. For one, Mary, her child is an adult, but that doesn't lessen the grief that she feels in surrendering Jesus, as the way of the cross reaches its culmination. For the other, the mother of Moses, her child is an infant, vulnerable and utterly dependent. The background of the story in Exodus is the cruel decree of the Pharaoh in Egypt to enact a policy of genocide against the Hebrew people enslaved in the land. All male babies are to be slaughtered at birth. The Hebrew midwives, who had been instructed to carry out that policy, heroically resist; but even their courage cannot keep all children safe for ever.

And so it is that this mother, unnamed in our story, takes the agonising decision to let her child go. She places the baby in a papyrus basket, and leaves him in a place where he will be found and cared for by another. By a mixture of good fortune and the cleverness of the child's sister, Moses is for a while returned to his mother's breast, when Pharaoh's daughter employs her as a nursemaid; but even this reunion is temporary. Once weaned, the mother lets her child go for a second time, to be brought up in Pharaoh's court.

There is a beautiful song by the great singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell, called 'Little Green'. It was written about fifty years ago, but only more recently did the full story behind the song emerge. It tells of how Joni, as a young mother, gave up her daughter for adoption; not because she did not love her, but because she did, and she knew that at that stage she could not give her child the safe, supportive, nurturing environment that was needed.

The song is one of loss and letting go; but also one of blessing and of trust. The child is entrusted to the care of others. In the same way, the mother of Moses did not abandon her child at the banks of the Nile, but let him go by entrusting him to the care of others, and above all by entrusting him to God. In the same way, Mary and Jesus let go of one another; Mary is entrusted to the care of the beloved disciple. Jesus is entrusted into the hands of God.

The hardest part of love is letting go. In all sorts of different ways, many of us will have had times of letting go; parents letting go of children; children letting go of parents. It doesn't get any easier. But in all of this we can do so through a trust in the one who will never let us go, whose arms of love enfold us in this world and the next, and in whom love never ends.

Keep Singing from Sarah

Hello everyone,

Hope you are keeping safe and well.

This time last year, on the day before Mothering Sunday, I sent round the first of these messages. A lot has happened in that year and I wanted to thank you all for your lovely messages which have kept us going through some difficult times. I hope you have found time to listen or sing along to some of the suggestions and I know that putting the selection together each week has been something I look forward to.

It feels that this year, on this day, there is a glimmer of hope. For us the girls have been back at school successfully for a week and Tom and I have both had our first vaccination. We feel very lucky and privileged to be in this position and send thoughts and prayers as always to those for whom things are still difficult.

We are hoping to see some of you socially distanced tomorrow at Kingsbury but as it will still be a while yet before we can sing together I thought I might continue to send out some music to accompany the Sunday Services (whether online or in person). I hope you enjoy this selection.

382 - Let all the world in every corner sing - [LUKINGTON-LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING - YouTube](#)

631 - Tell out, my soul - [Tell out my soul \(in full\) - YouTube](#)

304 - I come with joy - [ST BOTOLPH I COME WITH JOY, A CHILD OF GOD - YouTube](#)

605 - Sing we of the blessed mother - [Sing We of the Blessed Mother - YouTube](#)

Some more

O Lord, my heart is not proud - [O Lord, My Heart Is Not Proud - YouTube](#)

All shall be well Ogden - [All Shall Be Well - David Ogden - YouTube](#)

Mother of God, here I stand Tavener - [Tavener: Mother Of God, Here I Stand - YouTube](#)

There is a line of women Bell - ["There Is A Line of Women" by John Bell - YouTube](#)

magnificat taize - [Taizé - Magnificat Anima Mea Dominum - YouTube](#)

The Lord bless you and keep you Rutter - [The Lord Bless You and Keep You - John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers, City of London Sinfonia - YouTube](#)

Happy Mothering Sunday all and keep singing.

Lots of love,

Sarah, Tom, Emily and Phoebe xxxx