



## A Service for Mothering Sunday



### Hymn

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *All are welcome...*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *All are welcome...*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *All are welcome...*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *All are welcome...*  
*Marty Haugen*

### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### **Opening sentences and prayer**

We have come to worship God, the creator of all.  
God made the world  
and all the people in it:  
our mums and dads, brothers and sisters,  
our friends and teachers and helpers,  
the people who live next door  
and those who live far away.  
God made us  
and he loves us.

**As we approach, you invite us to come closer;  
as we draw near, you welcome us;  
in your welcome we find peace.  
Thank you, loving Father.  
Amen.**

## Confession

Lord, you are a loving parent.  
When we turn away, you stretch out your arms and welcome us home.  
When we are angry, you open your arms and show your love.  
When we are sad, you hold us in your arms and comfort us.  
Lord, thank you for being our loving parent.

Jesus, we know that you love us,  
**help us to love.**

You want us to love God,  
**help us to love.**

You want us to love other people,  
**help us to love.**

You want us to love our families,  
**help us to love.**

You want us to love our friends,  
**help us to love.**

You want us to love all people all over the world,  
**help us to love. Amen.**

God, we know we do lots of things wrong,  
yet you still want us as your children  
and you love each of us more than we could ever know.  
Thank you. **Amen.**



## The Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the 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 your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

### Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

*Richard A. M. Gillard*

**First Reading:** I Samuel I. 20 - end

### Hymn

O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down, you are before me,  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
And with love everlasting you besiege me:  
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
You have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future too.



Although your Spirit is upon me,  
Still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,  
Gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down, you are before me,  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

*Bernadette Farrell*

**Second Reading:** Luke 2. 33 - 35

**Talk and activity**

**Song**

God, you hold me like a mother,  
Safely on her knee;  
God, you hold me like a mother,  
Close to you but free.

God, you hold watch me when I wander,  
Keep me in your sight.  
God, you watch me when I wander,  
Hold me day and night.

God, you hold me like a mother,  
Teach me to be free.  
God, you hold me like a mother,  
Show your love to me.

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## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,  
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayer for Mothers and Distribution of Gifts**

Praise God who loves us.  
**Praise God who cares.**

For the care of mothers;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;  
**Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Children will be invited to take small gifts to their mothers*

*We pray together*

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers;  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Hymn**

Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us  
You are one with us, Mary's Son.  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin  
pouring Your love and goodness in  
Jesus our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ now and every day  
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this in remembrance Lord of you  
Into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us  
Born as one with us, Mary's Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus help us see  
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ I would come to you  
live my life for you, Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through,  
living Lord.

*Patrick Appleford*

### **The Blessing**

May the Father from whom every family  
in earth and heaven receives its name  
strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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