

## Morning worship – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### Mothering Sunday

Watch online at <https://www.facebook.com/churchinmoulton/> at 10am, or join us using this service sheet

*As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord.*

Isaiah 66:13



### **A prayer for the current situation**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Let us confess our sins to God our Father:*

**Almighty and merciful God  
we have sinned against you,  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with all our heart,  
we have not loved others as our Saviour Christ loves us.  
We are truly sorry.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been  
help us to amend what we are  
and direct what we shall be,  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen  
Through the Cross of Christ**

God have mercy on you,  
pardon and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven—and be at peace.  
May God strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

Collect

**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 sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gospel reading Matthew 12: 46-50

Reflection, written by Rev Pat Billsborrow

*Mothering Sunday*

“Who is my mother” said Jesus when his mother and brothers came seeking his welfare; words which seem very appropriate in the times we are living through at present. Many of us would have been making contact with our mothers or expecting to hear from our children today on this special day in the Christian Calendar, however perhaps we should, rather than feel disappointed or disillusioned, think on those words of Jesus which form part of the Gospel reading set for the day. Jesus like all of us was brought up in a human family and we know from our reading of Scripture the care he received from his mother Mary, but the time came when he was called to broaden his caring nature beyond the family to those who needed him more. The love between them was not diluted but changed, something we see when, as we will mark in a few weeks, Jesus was

hung on the cross, for his grieving mother was there despite the risks that could pose. Mothering is not something confined to those who physically give birth but is much broader it is a caring for those who are in need of care whoever they might be, and such care can come not only from women but also from men who see a need to support and nurture those who are particularly vulnerable, yes in their families, but also, especially in times like these, those in the wider world who seemingly have no one to be concerned for their welfare. As we pray for mothers and reflect on our own physical mothers today can we also think of all those in a position of caring in these difficult times and hold them in God's presence. Particularly I think of those who are putting their own lives on the line, the nurses and doctors, car workers and paramedics who carry on regardless. Yes, it is sad that we cannot be in church to worship this day but it does not prevent our prayers, I shall be lighting a candle in my window at 7 p.m. tonight in unison with other Christians as we hold on to faith and pray for a solution to this difficult crisis. God Bless you All, Rev. Pat

### **Prayers of intercession**

...Reponse will be  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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 blessing and dismissal

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit strengthen us for the Christian life. **Amen.**

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. **Amen.**

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Light a Candle in your window at 7pm this evening to join with other Christians in the UK in prayer*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen**