

## Welcome to the first Sunday Service of

### 'Apart but Together Worship'



Today is Mothering Sunday - held on the fourth **Sunday** in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter **Sunday**, it was originally a day to honour and give thanks to the Virgin Mary, also known as **Mother** Mary. ...

It was believed to be essential for people to return to their home '**mother**' church to make it a true family honoured occasion.

People throughout Great Britain will be unable to make that journey today as churches and places of worship are closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are in strange times, unsure of what tomorrow will bring but we worship a loving God who will protect and guide us ....

**Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Philippians 4:6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Today and for the next few months we are at liberty to praise and worship God wherever we are – in the kitchen, front room, garden .... and whatever the time ...*

*We can choose to dwell, as long as we like, on certain aspects of the service – letting our hearts and minds lead us to places God wants us to explore, we can come back to it as we are prompted through the day and hopefully we can share our thoughts with friends during the following week.*

## So, let us worship

**Colossians 3:16** (from the Message)

And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

## For the beauty of the Earth

(just click on the link for the tune) [https://youtu.be/TTcJ\\_SQruhE](https://youtu.be/TTcJ_SQruhE)

## Prayer

Thank you, Loving God,  
for all that you give us  
and all that you are for us.  
Like a devoted mother,  
you show patient mercy and gracious forgiveness;  
you give gifts of life,  
help us live to the full,  
and bring to the fore the fruit of your Spirit.  
Thank you for mother church:  
nurturing our faith,  
feeding us milk when tender in years of faith,  
and meat as we grow to committed discipleship.  
Thank you Loving God,  
drawing us to the bosom of your care,  
embracing us with tender strength.  
In Jesus' name we thankfully pray.

## Reading Colossians 3:12-17

New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

12 You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. 13 Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these good things put on love. Love holds them all together perfectly as if they were one.

15 Let the peace that Christ gives rule in your hearts. As parts of one body, you

were appointed to live in peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message about Christ live among you like a rich treasure. Teach and correct one another wisely. Teach one another by singing psalms and hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing to God with thanks in your hearts. 17 Do everything you say or do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Always give thanks to God the Father through Christ.

**The Message** <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A12-17&version=MSG>

**Craft your own sermon .....** using the following prompts

1. What does it mean to you to be 'chosen'?
2. What does it mean to you to be 'holy'? Not that you will be or that you might be – but that you ARE.
3. We choose our clothing differently – some for comfort, some because they are our favourite and others to impress. Looking at the 'garments' in verses 12b – 14 which do you find comfortable; which do not fit very well and which would be your favourite?
4. Verse 17b says “Always give thanks to God the Father through Christ”. What are you thankful for today .....

**Prayers of Intercession** – add to these as your heart leads you .....

Gracious God  
Father and Mother to us,  
bathing us in compassion  
and washing us from sin,  
we rejoice in the hope of Lent,  
and pray for those who are braving the flood:  
submerged in sorrow ....  
drowning in despair ....  
covered by guilt and shame ....  
We pray for all who feel themselves drifting:  
life's goals forgotten ....  
life's hopes un-renewed ....  
life's purpose rootless

salvation seeming distant or lost.

We pray for them in their fear or sadness,  
that they may re-emerge, healed and whole,  
knowing themselves to be loved and valued by you.

We pray particularly  
for the grieving, and dying,  
the sick, and the lonely,  
the impoverished, and the outcast.

Bless them all with renewed courage, confidence and self esteem,  
and a sense of belonging within your family.

Lord flood them with love to strengthen and comfort them. **Amen**

**I'll never let go of your hand**

**Don Francisco <https://youtu.be/j9un-49jPc4>**