

MOTHERING SUNDAY
22nd March 2020
Rev Richard Webb

READINGS

I Samuel 1:20-End

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord."

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

THE 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 in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SERMON

The day we especially remember and give thanks for our Mothers and all who have Mothered us !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Two small children bought plant for mum they used their own money to surprise her, she was thrilled the 5 yr old said sadly - Wanted to buy you a bouquet of flowers, but they were too expensive
We found this pot plant with a ribbon that said "Rest in Peace"
We thought it would be good since you are always asking for peace so you can rest
- All mum could do was laugh

The difference between a dog and a cat
A dog looks at his owner who feeds him, protects him, and cares for him, and says to himself, "She must be a god."
A cat looks at his owner who feeds him, protects him, and cares for him, and says to himself, "I must be a god."

Sometimes in our relationship with our mothers and those who mother us we adopt the attitude of the cat and take their love and care for granted. We take ourselves to be gods and the mother type persons in our lives - are simply there to serve us. Today we are invited to adopt more of the dog's attitude and be thankful and grateful for all of the mothering type of love and care we have received in our life.

Surely one of the most beautiful things that God ever created is the characteristic of being a Mother. It is hard to find the right card to buy for this day. Virtually all the cards say "Happy Mother's Day", not many "Happy Mothering Sunday". There is nothing wrong with having a day on which we celebrate our Mothers, as we do an individual's Birthday or other anniversary because of course we all have had mothers, But if mother is a particular term - mothering is general.

A book has been written that describes motherhood as nothing to do with traditionally and stereotypically feminine images. Mothering, the writer argues, is anything that creates the space or the conditions for another life to grow and to thrive. Mothering is the attitude that blesses the other and says

"it is good that you exist".

In one church the children were going to do a little presentation on this theme – they had been allowed to dress up as a representative of a profession of their choice and to say briefly how this person acts like a mother and so reflects the Motherly Love of God. (Is 66:13)

They chose, a policeman, a fireman, a paramedic and a baker.

And while its tempting to say that's just what they fancied dressing up as – in fact I think they did a wonderful job of capturing with simplicity all the things that Sallie McFague takes up a whole book writing about Mothering is about providing the essential needs of human beings – a need for Justice, a need for protection and rescue, a need for care and healing, and a need for food, for daily bread.

Today we give thanks for some real heroes, those who, without recourse to superpowers and other worldly feats, express the reality of the Kingdom of God in daily life, those who show us how mothering is something that we can all share in. Jesus said, “Who are my mother and my brothers and sisters? Those who do the will of God and keep it, they are my mother, brother and sister.” (Matt 12:46)

So let us give thanks and bless all those who have created the space and conditions for us to thrive and have blessed us with the words “It is good that you exist”. Be them our birth mothers or perhaps an Aunt or Granny or a friend or even a daughter; any of the ladies in our life

Let us Celebrate Mothering Sunday “Alleluia”

A HYMN : Now Thank We All Our God

By: Martin Rinchart

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all harm
In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them is highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.