

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday 19th March 2023

Good morning and welcome to our Service for Mothering Sunday.

Church notices -

Kingussie Parish Church

Next week's Sunday Service is a joint service at Kingussie Parish Church at 10.30 am.

Wednesday 22nd March Babies and Toddlers from 9.00

Every Thursday Warm space will operate from 10:00 until 16:00

Hot drinks and snacks available throughout the day, with soup and bread at lunchtime. Craft activities including knitting, sewing, glass painting and friendly chat.

Everyone is welcome to pop in.

Foodshare table is also available

Insh Village Church service tonight at 6pm

Laggan and Newtonmore

Prayer meetings dates for the next quarter (the 3rd Friday each month) are as follows:

21st April at Newtonmore, 11am-12 noon

19th May at Kingussie, 11am-12 noon

16th June at Laggan, 11am-12 noon

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of May. People from Ireland and the U.K. started celebrating Mother's Day on the same day that Mothering Sunday was celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Today is Mother's Day in the UK this year.

Opening Prayer

Sovereign God, we have come to worship you, to declare your faithfulness, to acknowledge your majesty, and to marvel at your love. Lord of heaven and earth.

We are here to rejoice, to bring our thanks, to express our wonder and to celebrate your goodness.

We are here to pray, for ourselves, our world and one another.

We come to speak, to sing your praises, and to declare our faith and to make known the gospel

Lord of heaven and earth, receive our praise.

Amen

1st Hymn 181 For the beauty of the earth

Mrs Eppy Mackay brings our 1st Reading to us 1 Samuel Ch 1 v 20-28.

So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."

Hannah Dedicates Samuel

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always."

"Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

Let us Pray

We bring our prayer of Praise 'A Mother's Love,' Gracious God, on this special day of thanksgiving, we catch a glimpse, through a mother's love for her child, of your love for us; the care, dedication and devotion you show to all your children. As a mother nurtures her children, instructing, feeding, clothing, guiding, so you nurture us, carefully leading us, carefully leading us towards maturity. For the intensity of your love.

As a mother tends her children, comforting in times of distress, reassuring in times of uncertainty, encouraging in times of challenge, so you tend us, always there to lift us up. For the intensity of your love.

Gracious God, Mother and Father of us all, we rejoice today in the wonder of your love and the constancy of your care. Gratefully we respond in joyful worship and heartfelt thanksgiving. For the intensity of your love . Lord, we praise you. In the name of Christ, your only Son.

And now, we join together saying

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen

Mrs Eppy Mackay brings our 2nd Reading

Luke Ch 2 v 33 - 35

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

2nd Hymn 599 Holy Spirit hear us

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is very costly to be a mother. Mothers provide free food and shelter for their children. Mothers see their children get what they need and also protect them in times of danger. Mothers spend much time each day looking after the house, shopping and cooking – it is good when these jobs can be shared and nowadays we have to remember that many mothers work. It is very easy to take the love and sacrifice of our mother for granted. It is the love and security she provides that gives us strength for daily life.

Today is the middle of Lent ; sometimes it is called Refreshment Sunday. It is a break in the routine of Lent when we stop to give thanks for our homes and loved ones, especially our mother. This is the day when we can appreciate what Mothers do for you and when we can say thank you.

Today's readings are all about mothers. The mother of Moses hid him from the wicked Pharaoh who would have him killed him. To do this meant that Moses' mother risked her life. Even after three months, when she put him in a basket at the riverside, she made sure Moses was safe. She could have been killed just for loving her son.

Hannah did not think she would ever have child but at last she gave birth to Samuel. When she later gave him to be with the priest Eli, she brought a little robe each year for her boy I am sure she sewed much love into it.

In the Gospel when Simeon met Mary he told her that Jesus would be opposed and how a sword would pierce her heart also. Mothers suffer when they see their child suffering. When one member of a family suffers all feel the pain. Think how Mary suffered when she saw Jesus on the cross.

Let this be a day when we give thanks to God for the love of our homes.

Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM

The choir will bring their anthem for today to us now “It is well with my soul.’

3rd Hymn 462 The King of love my Shepherd is.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you have created us all.

We are your children, loved by you and ever under your care and protection. We thank you for our life, your love and all that you give us.

We thank you for the Church that tells of your love and helps people to know you. Loving God, bless our Church, that it may show your love to all who come to it. We remember especially today any who would have liked to be here but were not able to come.

We thank you for the wonderful world that you have given us, for the air we breathe and for water. We thank you for all growing things and for food. God bless all who work hard to provide us with what we need. We pray especially for hungry and homeless people.

We thank you God for the love of our homes. Thank you for the love and care of Mothers. We remember all who are suffering from lack of love, and those who live in homes where there is tension and broken relationships.

We thank you for the confidence and joy we have through knowing we are loved. We ask your blessing upon all who are lonely or neglected. We pray for all who have been taken into care.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

4th Hymn 336 Christ be our light

Please remain standing at the end of this Hymn for the Benediction

The God who called us here is sending us out, to turn words into deeds worship into Service, and vision into reality.

Together we have celebrated the faith; now let us share it, in the name of Christ.

Amen

Hymn 786 May the God of peace go with us