

# *Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet*

## **Mothering Sunday**

**27.03.2022**

### **Order of Service**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Call to worship – Psalm 32:11**

You that are righteous, be glad and rejoice  
because of what the LORD has done.

You that obey him, shout for joy!

**Hymn - Hallelujah (Your love is amazing)**

#### **Prayer**

**Hymn - Great Big God**

#### **All-age activity / Bible Reading:**

Luke 15:1-3; 11b – 32

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, <sup>2</sup> the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, “This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!” <sup>3</sup> So Jesus told them this parable: “There was once a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to him, ‘Father, give me my share of the property now.’ So the man divided his property between his two sons. <sup>13</sup> After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money.

He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. <sup>15</sup> So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. <sup>17</sup> At last he came to his senses and said, ‘All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against God and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and started back to his father. “He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’ And so the feasting began.

<sup>25</sup> “In the meantime the older son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the

music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. <sup>29</sup> But he spoke back to his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! <sup>30</sup> But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.'"

### **Flower distribution**

**Hymn:** Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

### **Sermon**

**Let us pray:** 'O God, take my words, and through them speak your Word, in the name of the living Word, Jesus Christ, **Amen.**'

Historically, Mothering Sunday was an opportunity for people living away from home to visit the mother church and visit the mother bearing a gift. It used to be Simnel cake in past. It is also an opportunity reconnect with the family. In the Luke 15, Bible story for today the prodigal son returned home because he had lost everything and realised only his father could give him the comfort he needed.

Some fathers are both mother and father for their children just as some mothers are both mother and father for theirs. The story did not mention the mother and one wonders if the father played both the role of a mother and father to his sons.

Today is a day to remember and to give thanks for both the biological mothers and any other person who had nurtured us in our lives whether alive or long gone. Where our experiences of being mothered had been poor and difficult, it is a time to find it in our hearts to forgive the mother or our carer, just like the father forgave his selfish and wayward prodigal son.

It will be uncaring not to acknowledge today is difficult for some. This could be because the mother died or abandoned them as child. Or it reminds them of their difficult relationship with the mother. There are also those who longed to be mothers themselves and were denied that opportunity or had been bereaved or had their children taken away. Let us keep all these people in our prayer today asking Jesus Christ to heal and comfort them and to show them the reassurance of his love.

However, Mothering Sunday is a day to celebrate the loving, caring, giving and sacrificial qualities of a mother, of mothering and of motherhood. It is also time for mothers and carers to give thanks for their children.

Mothering Sunday is a good reminder of God's great unconditional love for us like a mother. And that he wants us to love others unconditionally too. If you have gone away from God like the prodigal son, He is lovingly waiting for you to return home, like the prodigal son's father. He wants you to be part of His family and His eternal Kingdom.

Brothers and sisters, stop procrastinating, repent, abandon your sinful ways and return to Jesus Christ our mother- hen who says in Isaiah 66:18, 'As a mothers comforts her child, so I will comfort you.

**Amen.**

**Hymn -** He will hold me fast

**Prayer of intercession –** using plants

**Closing Hymn:** Your grace is enough

**Blessing –** The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.