

Service for  
Mothering Sunday  
(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

FOR  
GOD  
SO  
Loved the World  
that  
HE  
Gave  
His  
ONLY  
SON  
John 3:16

St Laurence Church, Downton

14 March 2021

# Preparation

## Call to Worship

We come from scattered lives  
**to meet with God.**

and light a candle,  
**to recognize his presence with us.**

We light this candle to remind us  
that Jesus is the light of the world,  
and is always with us to show us the way.

We come as one today  
**to meet with God**

We come searching  
**for his love and goodness. Amen.**



*The Team Rector introduces the service*

Hymn: Tell out, my soul  
*(St Martin's Voices)*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926)*

### Gathering:

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish  
but have eternal life.

**Let those who know they are redeemed celebrate it!  
Those who have been reclaimed from deep trouble!**

Though we were as good as dead,  
God made us alive with the grace of Christ  
through whom we are rescued and healed.

**O give thanks to God for such unswerving love,  
for such wonderful deeds for the children of earth.**

*Bruce Prewer (inspired by John 3:14-21 and Ephesians 2:1-10)*

### Prayer:

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.  
Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
your touch makes sinners righteous.  
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.  
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us  
**Amen.**

*St Anselm of Canterbury (1109)*

## Affirmation of Faith:

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### Readings:

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### *After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Reflection by Bishop Andrew

Music: Magnificat - John Rutter  
(Oxford Choir)

# *Prayers*

*We are led in a time of prayer*

*This response is used:*

Loving Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said:*

Trusting in the compassion of God  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## *Conclusion*

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.**

**Blessing:**

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over you and hold you  
all the days of your life;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you,  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May the God of grace and restoration  
be the strength in our lives as we go about our days. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**