

St Marks' Church

Mothering Sunday Service

31 March 2019



Mary with Child Jesus
Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavik, Iceland

Verse from Scripture

As a mother comforts a child
so will I comfort you, says the Lord.
Isaiah 66.13

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Call to Worship

We have come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, where we have failed to nurture each other. We come to receive again from the God of compassion and mercy

Let us pray together..

Loving, compassionate Father, as a mother hen gathers her chicks, so you draw the whole human family to yourself. Bring us together now, Lord, that we may today and forever be united under your wing in all our sorrows and joys. Amen

Hymn
Praise My Soul
Tune: Lauda Anima

Confession

Heavenly Father, parent of us all,
we know we don't always treat each other as you want us to.
Lord God, forgive us; and help us to be more loving

There are times when we insist on getting our own way
despite what others feel.

Lord God, forgive us; and help us to be more loving

Sometimes we increase tension when we ought to seek peace,
or say things which hurt one another.

Lord God, forgive us; and help us to be more loving

God has loved us, sending his Son Jesus to show us the true
meaning of forgiveness

Lord God, forgive us; and help us to be more loving. Amen

Words of Forgiveness

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.

All Amen

St Anselm of Canterbury

The Offering

**Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives to be
used in your service through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn

Here is love vast as the ocean

Collect

God of love, passionate and strong,
tender and careful; watch over us
and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bible Readings

(You may follow these in Parish News)

Hymn

How great the debt we owe
Tune: Franconia

Address

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

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

The Creed

We proclaim our faith as we say ...

**All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts
through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn

Our Father God in heaven
Tune: Ellacombe

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing of Flowers

Heavenly Father, you have given us signs of your love; homes where we belong; parents and friends to whom we are precious; and Baptism to make us children in the family of your church. By your blessing, let these flowers be symbols of love and thanks to those whom we give them, so that through this simple act, we may proclaim your glory. **Amen**

The Distribution of the Flowers

Hymn

Now thank we all our God

Tune: Nun Danket

Blessing

Thank you to all those who have helped prepare our church or helped in our worship this morning.

'As truly as God is Father, so just as truly is he our mother.' *Julian of Norwich.*

