

Mothering Sunday 2022

On Mothering Sunday each of us prays for our mother and for others who have been like a mother to us.

We also remember in prayer women who wanted to be mothers but who have not been able to bear children.

We also remember in prayer the many ways in which women and men play a mothering role—often to the children of others.

Today we will pray for the mothers of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

Welcome to worship

We sing a hymn

Praise God who loves us:

All: Praise God who cares

Heavenly Father,
Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Lived in a family at Nazareth;
As we meet together now, help us to learn more about what it is to love our families and friends as you love us,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **All: Amen**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

All: Blessed be God for ever

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in joy and in sorrow for their children.

All: Blessed be God for ever

over

We praise you, O God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love

And we praise you for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

All: Blessed be God for ever

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others, and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Heavenly Father, parent of us all,
we know we don't always treat each other
as you want us to.

Lord God, forgive us

All: 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

All: And help us to be more loving.

Sometimes we ignore the needs of others when we ought to seek
peace, or we say things that hurt one another.

Lord God, forgive us

All: 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

All: And help us to be more loving.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in His image to the praise and glory of His name
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Prayer for Mothering Sunday

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 our Lord.

All: Amen.

Genesis 2: 1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

John 19: 25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

We sing a hymn

The Apostles Creed

**All: I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
On the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

As children of a loving God who always listen to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.

God of love

All: hear our prayer

Loving God, Jesus, your Son was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; Strengthen those families living under stress, hardship, division or enforced separation.

May your love be found where no human love is found.

God of love

All: hear our prayer

We pray today for the mothers, fathers and children of Ukraine., Russia and Belarus,

We pray for all refugees, far from home, and we pray for all those who reach out in love to refugees and who take them into their own home and family.

God of love. **All: hear our prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.

We sing a hymn

A prayer for mothers

Praise God who loves us:

All: Praise God who cares

For the care of mothers

All: thanks be to God

For their patience when tested:

All: thanks be to God

For their love when they have little left to give

All: thanks be to God

For their hope given to others when they are despairing

All: thanks be to God

Loving God, thank you for mothers, for grandmothers and God-mothers, and for all the people who care for us and who have loved us. **All: Amen**

We sing a hymn

The Blessing



BBC 25.02.22

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Nikolai Kuleba, the Ombudsman for Children within the Office of the President of Ukraine, has written an utterly heart-breaking piece for the Guardian about what the country's children and their parents are having to endure.

Here's an excerpt: Daily, parents call me pleading for assistance to evacuate their children, willing to take any risk to find safety. I cannot help them all now. I cannot tell them they are wrong to ask. As families are divided, mothers and fathers pin their names to their children's coats and inhale the smell of their hair before the bus door must shut. To answer their plea is also to break their hearts. To those who have Ukraine's children in their care – know they are loved and cherished. Please tell them this and put them to bed each night with a kiss on their foreheads, as their mothers and fathers would. For the children who are still here, there is no safety, only terror. The Guardian 7th March 2022.



Olga and her husband Dmytro at the Ohmatdit Children's Hospital in Kyiv.

According to the hospital, Olga covered the baby with her body, miraculously saving her daughter from injuries.

(Ohmatdit Children's Hospital)

https://edition.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-putin-news-03-20-22/h_5b55ab092b9277fafc223f5bbd91a38f
20th March 2022

A young boy reunited with his mother was one of the thousands of Ukrainians who crossed the border of neighbouring countries today to escape their war-torn homeland.

Anna Semyuk, 33, from Kamianets-Podilskyi in western Ukraine, hugged her son again after her husband had let a stranger take their son over the border and keep him safe as they fled the Russian invasion.

Their father couldn't take them since Ukraine has banned men aged 18 to 60 from leaving in a bid to guarantee the country's 'defence and the organisation of timely mobilisation'.

At the border crossing on the Ukrainian side, Anna's 38-year-old husband had put his trust in Nataliya Ableyeva, 58, who ferried the boy over the Hungarian border to be re-united with his mother who was already in Hungary.



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10554443/Almost-10-000-Ukrainians-crossed-Poland-TODAY-says-120-000-far-fled.html> 26th February 2022