

The Parish Church of St Giles  
with St Mary's, Pontefract

**A Song of St Anselm**

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.



Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10.15 a.m.

Live Streamed on Facebook from St Giles' Church

# Welcome

Once again government restrictions prevent us to from attending worship in person. Below is the service sheet for Mothering Sunday. If you are able, you could use this and join us on Facebook at 10.15 a.m. next Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> to worship together in spirit, if not in body. The link is -

<https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract>

I look forward to the day when we can again share Parish Mass together, next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

## Canon June

A period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use the Prayer of Preparation:

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

# The Gathering

## Introit Hymn

*Angel voices, ever singing,  
round Thy throne of light,  
angel-harps, for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless Thee,  
and confess Thee  
Lord of might.*

*Thou who art beyond the farthest  
mortal eye can scan,  
can it be that Thou regardest  
songs of sinful man?  
Can we know that Thou art near us  
and wilt hear us?  
yea, we can.*



Francis Pott (1832-1909)

✠ In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

## Praising and thanking God

*A large candle is lit.*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

## **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

## **Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

## **Blessed be God for ever.**

## Invitation to confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence for reflection*

## Prayer of Penitence

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.

We fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy.

### **Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

### **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

### **Lord have mercy.**

*The president says*

May the God of love and power

✠forgive you and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**



## The Collect for Mothering Sunday

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading                      Exodus 2.1-10

A reading from the book of Exodus.

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid

him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.



The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

A reading from the second book of Paul to the Corinthians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Reading

Luke 2.33-35

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

# Prayers of Intercession

We come in faith to the throne of grace, offering our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

*After each prayer:* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:*

Sebastian; Jonathan; Brenda; Janet; Morag; Catherine; Denzil & David; Andrew & Jenny; Ali & Barbara Berridge; Ann Knox; Gayle Ablethorpe; ; Janis Gallagher; Lucy Nicholl; Rhys Williams; Anita Murray; David Murray; Jonathan Bellamy; Fred Ruddick; Maureen Steane; Pat Steel.

*We pray for those who have recently died:*

Marjorie Pickles; John Edward Green.

*Those whose years mind falls at this time:*

Kath Taylor; Robert Haley Milnes; Hilary Dalglish.



*At the end:* Merciful Father  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,  
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'



The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Altar

### Offertory Hymn (336)

*Yea, we know that Thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of Thine;  
Thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for Thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for Thy pleasure  
all combine.*

*In Thy house, great God, we offer  
of Thine own to Thee;  
and for Thine acceptance proffer,  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices,  
in our choicest  
psalmody.*

*Honour, glory, might and merit,  
Thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Blessed Trinity!  
Of the best which Thou hast given  
earth and heaven  
render Thee.*

Francis Pott (1832-1909)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
accept all we offer you this day;  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters  
that this my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice  
at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name.  
for our good  
and the good of all his church.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the  
new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in  
remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.



Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Our Lady, Giles and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, and heirs with Christ, we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us your peace.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to communion.*

**This is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.**

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The clergy receive communion.*

*You may wish to use the following prayer as a spiritual act of communion.*

**In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,  
where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise  
and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the  
earnest wish that I may always be united to you.**

**And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to  
come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace  
you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you  
from me.**

**May I live and die in your love.**

## Hymn

*For Mary, Mother of our Lord  
God's holy name be praised,  
who first the Son of God adored*

*as on her Child she gazed.*

*The angel Gabriel brought the word  
she should Christ's mother be;  
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,  
made answer willingly.*

*The heavenly call she thus obeyed,  
and so God's will was done;  
the second Eve love's answer made  
which our redemption won.*

*She gave her body as God's shrine,  
her heart to piercing pain,  
and knew the cost of love divine  
when Jesus Christ was slain.*

*Dear Mary, from your lowliness  
and home in Galilee,  
there comes a joy and holiness  
to every family.*

*Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,  
above all women blest;  
blest in your Son, whom your embrace  
in birth and death confessed.*

JR Peacey (1896-1971)

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

Let us pray.

**Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food  
and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Notices are given.*

## Distribution of Flowers

Loving God may your blessing be upon the flowers which have been distributed in your name. We give thanks for all mothers and those who have been as mothers to us in our lives. May the flowers also remind us how much you value each one of us, because we are all your children. Amen.

## The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Praise God who loves us.  
**Praise God who cares.**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.  
May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The clergy leave.*

## Hymn

*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 (1926-) Fr. St Luke 146-55  
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