

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Service of the Word

Thank you

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday
14th March 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Gathering Prayer

Father of us all, Mother of each one,
thank you for your love for us from the
beginning of time.

You formed us when we were in our
mother's wombs, you knit us together
lovingly, your devotion to us has not
failed, your care has followed us our
whole life long.

All we are and all we have, we owe to
you, and so on this, the Lord's Day, in this
gathering devoted to your glory, we give
honour to you with our hearts and hands
and voices.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Amen.**

Hymn

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful
the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

Refrain

The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

Refrain

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

Refrain

*Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys)
(1818-1895)*

Prayer of confession

Lord, through your Holy Word you call
mothers and all people to live nobly, with
strength and dignity, with wisdom and
faith. You call us to fear you at all times
and in all things.

Proverbs 31.10-31

Silence

Lord, many of us hear those words and
are inspired, encouraged, and grateful.
But some of us are tempted to doubt
that your grace could ever produce those
kinds of virtues in our lives.

Some of us are tempted by resentment
and unforgiveness because of those who
have let us down.

Some of us are tempted to condemn
ourselves for past failings, and all of us
remember times when we have fallen
short.

Forgive us
**for doubt, resentment, unforgiving
hearts, self-condemning attitudes.**

Remind us
**of your forgiveness, always available in
Jesus Christ.**

In spite of our failures and sin,
**we trust in your power to transform our
lives.**

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
**so that our lives may bring joy to your
world and praise to your name. Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

God lifted up his Son upon a cross, so that
all might be saved and have eternal life;
those who choose to believe in him are
forgiven their sins, and will know the joys
of heaven.

O God, every day you offer us choices;
ours is the decision between good and
evil, the path of righteousness or the road
to destruction.

Thank you for showing us the good and
true way through your Son.

Thank you for your eternal love. Amen.

The Collect

**Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to
serve you: when sin spoils our lives and
overshadows our hearts, come to our aid
and turn us back to you again; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God who
loves us and forgives us:

**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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Corinthians 1.3-6

Praise be to the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
compassion and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort we ourselves
receive from God. For just as we share
abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so
also our comfort abounds through Christ.
If we are distressed, it is for your comfort
and salvation; if we are comforted, it is
for your comfort, which produces in you
patient endurance of the same sufferings
we suffer.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,
though hard the task assigned,
and by the Holy Ghost conceived
the Saviour of mankind.

She gave her body as God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain;
she 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;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)
© Revd Mary J Hancock

Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 19.25-27

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A reflection from Bishop James

A few more thoughts

Video

Thank you

Prayers

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And ending with The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and
boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing, "all is mine"
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh, the night has been won
and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing "I am free"
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

*Michael Farren, Rich Thompson & Jonny
Robinson © 2018 Integrity's Alleluia!*

Offertory Prayer

God of Great gifts, we give you these
gifts today knowing that you are the
Father of gifts. You mother us constantly
providing for us, caring for us. As we have
been abundantly provided for, so we give
abundantly to the work that you give us
to do, the work of the church, the care for
those who are poor. Accept these gifts in
Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing for Mothering Sunday

May the Lord who brought us to birth by
his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian
life.

May the Lord who provides for all our
needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is
constant as a mother's care, send us out
to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
and with all those you love and miss,
this day and always. **Amen.**

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