22nd. MARCH 2020 10a.m.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Father, we thank you for the family of the church, for those who are true mothers within our Christian family. May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others. Amen. (Mary Batchelor)

CONFESSION

Forgive us, Lord, for our greed and misuse of natural resources, when we stockpile food so others go hungry, for the things we *didn't* do – the times we didn't demonstrate your love, when we didn't show forgiveness ourselves.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

PSALM 34: 11-20.

READINGS

2 Cor 1:3-7, Luke 2:33-35.

MINI-REFLECTION

Mary rejoiced at the birth of her son, she heard the message of the angels ("He will be called the Son of the Most High") and the words of Simeon, and "pondered them in her heart". Yet, as she stood at the foot of the cross, a sword would pierce her soul. She had to suffer the pain and loss, to let him go to his heavenly father. Let us give thanks for those who have shown sacrificial love to us.

PRAYERS

PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Loving God, we remember with thankful hearts our families, and the care of our mothers. We thank you today for all those who care for us, and remember those who are now with you, who have cared for us in the past. Lord Jesus, who knew the love and care of parents, help us to love and care for others.

We pray for mothers who are struggling; for those who do not have enough money, to put food on the table, or to heat their homes. For mums whose hearts cry out to you in pain, because they rely on the care of their children. Bless them today and every day. We ask for you to send your peace on those who have lost their longed-for child in death, and those who have children adopted or living away from home. Bless them today and every day. We pray too for those who don't know the love of a mother or father, and those who have experienced a difficult relationship with a parent. For those who have experienced loss or neglect. Bless them today and every day. God of love, hear these prayers and answer them, for the sake of your children. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Childrens Society)

We pray for our church family, that even though we cannot meet physically we can share in worship and support each other through prayer.

We give thanks for those who have shown the community spirit, who have cared for their neighbours and the vulnerable.

As we temporarily self-isolate, we pray for those for whom loneliness is the norm, the "invisible" people in society.

We pray for those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, for those infected with Covid19 and those who care for them, for those who mourn loved ones. Especially we pray for those we name in the silence of our hearts…….

Let us share the **GRACE.**

FINAL PRAYER.Bless us, Christ Jesus; your forgiveness and your presence bring to birth trust and praise in us. (Taizé).