

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday) March 30th

The Readings and Psalm

1 Samuel 1. 20-28 (read by Spencer Major and Rosie Jones)

Later the Lord blessed Elkanah and Hannah with a son. She named him Samuel because she had asked the Lord for him. The next time Elkanah and his family went to offer their yearly sacrifice, he took along a gift that he had promised to give to the Lord. But Hannah stayed home, because she had told Elkanah, "Samuel and I won't go until he's old enough for me to stop nursing him. Then I'll give him to the Lord, and he can stay there at Shiloh for the rest of his life."

"You know what's best," Elkanah said. "Stay here until it's time to stop nursing him. I'm sure the Lord will help you do what you have promised." Hannah did not go to Shiloh until she stopped nursing Samuel.

When it was the time of year to go to Shiloh again, Hannah and Elkanah took Samuel to the Lord's house. They brought along a three-year-old bull, a twenty-pound sack of flour, and a clay jar full of wine. Hannah and Elkanah offered the bull as a sacrifice, then brought the little boy to Eli.

"Sir," Hannah said, "a few years ago I stood here beside you and asked the Lord to give me a child. Here he is! The Lord gave me just what I asked for. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will be the Lord's servant for as long as he lives."

Colossians 3. 12-17 (read by Erin Jones)

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

Psalm 127. (Only the Lord Can Bless a Home)

1 Without the help of the Lord it is useless to build a home
or to guard a city.

2 It is useless to get up early and stay up late
in order to earn a living.

God takes care of his own, even while they sleep.

3 Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord.

4 Having a lot of children to take care of you in your old age
is like a warrior with a lot of arrows.

5 The more you have, the better off you will be,

because they will protect you when your enemies attack with arguments.

John 19. 25-27 (read by Rev Bev Reaney)

Jesus' mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home.

The Hymns (from Mission Praise)

Processional : New every morning is the love. MP480
Offertory : Children of Jerusalem OR Loving shepherd of my sheep MP70 or MP888
C1 : Lord you have my heart. MP887
C2 : To be in your presence. MP951
Recessional : Blessed assurance. MP59

Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Jesus knew the value of children, how much closer they are to God's kingdom than the wisest of adults.

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God - Luke 15:16

We pray that all children will know of your invitation to them, and will find the welcome that awaits them in your arms.

Gentle, Patient God

Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world. Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms. *As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you – Isaiah 66:13.*

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children. *Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. Isaiah 49:15*

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms.

No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers' arms. Psalm 131:2

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings... Matthew 23:37

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:

For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:

For fathers who have loved and supported us:

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:

For children everywhere and their parents:

For relatives and friends, who have been with us in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven:

We praise you, O Lord; and bring you thanks today.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another, and to you, our Father, now and always.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer**

God our Father,

your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth:

he knew the joys of family life, the love and guidance of a mother and father, took pleasure in knowing brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Grant that in our own families through sharing these same pleasures, we will learn to love and to live together.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer**

God our Father,

Jesus' knew the joys of belonging to worshipping communities, his synagogue and the temple in Jerusalem.

Grant that in our own church, here in Glyncorrwg, we will all experience and appreciate the comfort of a mothering community of Christians.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer**

Father God, bless us all and keep us in your loving care, as your children in this family that is your church.

In the name of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

At the end of the service, the children of the choir gave bunches of daffodils to members of the congregation.

And after the service.....

Mothering Sunday - the Simnel Cake



Over the years, on Mothering Sunday there has always been a Simnel Cake for the after service tea at Glyncorrwg Church. Over the years, different people have provided the cake, including Linormore Jones and Lynne Laskey. For the last couple of years, the baker has been Mrs Eurlys Phipps. This year, however, we almost didn't get our traditional treat. Smoke emanating from a Heol Y Glyn house told the tale - at a crucial stage in the baking of the cake, the distractions of family chatter almost proved fatal to the marzipan. "What's that smokey smell?" asked daughter Christine.....

Fortunately, prompt action saved the day, and it was only the "nicely caramellised" marzipan that had to be replaced. As the photo shows, the tradition continues to be appreciated. By the end of tea, there wasn't much for Eurlys to take home!