



Worship at Home

Mothering Sunday

14 March 2021

Opening Call To Worship

Today we celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, aunts,
and all the women who have loved us and nurtured us.

Thank you God for giving us mothers.

We remember with deep gratitude all the ways they demonstrated their love for us.

For their tears, for their hugs, for their wisdom, for their unfailing trust in our
abilities, we give thanks today.

A Litany for Mother's Day

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

Thank God for mothers!

Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

For those women who have joined God in Heaven

and whom we miss dearly

here on earth.

Thank God for the mothers of the past.

For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

Thank God for the mothers of today.

For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

Thank God for the mothers who are so strong to carry on living.

For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honour them in everything we do. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers and fathers and mother figures.

We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting, and bringing us into the world.

We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us, yet loved us just the same.

With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid;

We thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly;

We thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears;

We thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs;

We thank you for the times when they corrected us rather than letting us continue down wrong paths.

Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain.

We honour our mothers with lives of service to you in the name of the Risen Christ, for it is in his Name we pray.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Bible Reading—2 Timothy 1: 5-7

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Meditation—Heather

Today is about you

Isn't it incredible that God puts people into our lives to help, support and encourage us? As well as it being Mother's Day today, on Monday it was International Woman's Day, so today we especially want to think about the women God has placed in our lives. Not only those we call "mum", but any woman who has made a difference to our lives in a positive way. They might be mothers, grandmothers, teachers, family members, friends, members of our church, leaders. Those women who have shown love to us and are people we can depend on. Who is important to you?

In the video we just saw there were many Biblical women mentioned, some whose stories you may know well and others perhaps not. Maybe later you want to re-watch the video then read those stories in your Bible. I wonder which one stood out for you.

For me it was Lois and Eunice. The grandmother and mother of a young man called Timothy. In 2 Timothy 1:5-7 we read about them. Paul writes to Timothy saying:



"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Not only did Lois and Eunice have a strong faith of their own, but they eagerly passed it on to their children, grandchildren and family that they might know, follow and trust in God too. The importance of their motherly role was to nurture and grow faith in God in their children.

This past year we've had to do, almost that, church from home and explore the Bible together as families, it strikes me that this is what it was like for Lois, Eunice and Timothy all the time, and what it should be like for us. We should be eagerly talking about the Bible and God and living God's way in our homes and in front of our families for them to see and learn from each other. Not expecting it to always be other people who teach our children and our family, even ourselves about God, but we ourselves should be learning to walk with God together, as a family.

It reminds me of those verses in Deuteronomy 6:5-9:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Why is it important to do these things? Because following God is the greatest, one of the most challenging and the most important thing we should do, and we need to help each other. We spend a lot of our time with our families, not only when we're in lockdown, but also during restriction free living. One of the key places we should be living out our faith is at home – learning together and from each other what it means to follow God. And so, we give thanks for women like Lois and Eunice in our homes who teach us how to follow God day by day.

But even for those who live alone, or aren't in contact with other family members, they can still have an impact on others for God. Think about some of the other women mentioned in the video: Anna, an old woman who had lived for a long time without her husband, who never left the Temple but was a witness there of what it means to live dedicated to God and encouraging people with words of hope about what God was doing. How many people did she impact through her life of faithfulness?

Or the midwives of Israel who were unafraid to go against the word of the most powerful human being in their land. They knew God to be more powerful than Pharaoh and so even though it put their lives in danger, they were willing to risk that for the advance of God's kingdom. How many children did they save and inspire with their courage?

Or Naomi, who adopted Ruth, Boaz and their baby into her family, who spoke words of blessing over them and taught them the ways of God. What would have happened if she had continued to push Ruth away instead of welcoming her?

Who are the women in your life who have been like those Biblical women? Who are the ones who taught you about God, showed you how to live life following Him? Who stood with you in the difficult times and helped you through? Who reminded you of God's promises and taught you the Bible? Who welcomed you in and loved you deeply and unconditionally?

How can you thank those people? Have you thanked God for those women?

Think about who cares for you, how do they do it, how do they care for you? And why, why do they care for you? Is it because they are showing off, is it because they want to look good in front of other people, is it because they will be rewarded for it? No, it's because they love you. And for Christians it's because they love God and want to imitate God and demonstrate His love to those around them.

Throughout the Bible we see God's love demonstrated—he provides for His people, protects them, rescues them, leads them. We see the ultimate act of love demonstrated through Jesus and the sacrifice he made on the cross.

Before Jesus was arrested and went to the cross, he spoke to his disciples, giving them some final encouragements and instructions. In John 15:12-17 we read some of these words:

“My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

So while we see God's love in action by how he interacts with people and through Jesus, we also see God's love demonstrated through people who live trying to imitate God. We see it through the human characters God chose to be His witnesses, His light to the world. Through people who know their purpose is to know God and make Him known.

Jesus doesn't ask us to do difficult things, he doesn't require us to complete impossible tasks or jump through hoops before he'll accept us and love us. Instead, he asks simple things—trust, faith, love. Not that those things are always easy, but then we have the gift of God's presence, the Holy Spirit in us to help us do the things we find difficult. God's calling to us is simple, know Him and imitate Him.

When I think about the women who have and are making an impact on my life, what I see reflected in them is God's heart. They don't expect or require impossible things from me before they'll love me or help me. Instead, they look at me and see my worth as a person, as a child of God, accepted first by Him, freely welcomed by Him and so freely welcomed and loved by them. What I see when I look at them is the image of God.

God has chosen each one of us to be part of His family. He places people in our lives to love us, encourage us and support us. He also gives us people we can love, encourage and support. Whether in our families, our church, the work we do or volunteering we take part in, in our friendships God gives us people that we can show His love to. So perhaps today or this week you want to take time to thank God for the people he has placed in your life, maybe if you're able you can thank the person themselves. But also ask God to show you who he wants you to reach out to with His love.



Closing Prayer

Mothering God

Come to us as an enfolding nurturing presence
That your steadfast love might hold us.
We thank you for all the things you give us to help us grow.
We thank you for the care of your church
In our youth we know its gentle care
And as we grow in faith we hear your challenge and urge
To help us share your hope and love with others.

And so we pray
Gracious God, that you would bless those who are looking in the wrong direction,
those who are living in the past,
trapped in nostalgia with only memories.

We pray for those for whom sorrow darkens their whole horizon
and pray that let the sun of your light will shine on them bringing new hopes and dreams,

for those who have allowed some disappointment or quarrel
to sour their life rather than to help them grow,

And we pray for those who think of their problems
but who never think to turn to You,

for those who are conscious of their weakness
but have forgotten Your all sufficient grace,

We pray for parents everywhere and ask you to bless them.
Bless those mums and dads who work so hard
that their families hardly see anything of them,
Grant that this Sabbath day might give time to rest and relax
and enjoy the people they love,

We pray for those who are ill or in pain,
for those in hospitals or receiving care at home

We pray for those suffering from memory loss
and for their carers, give them the support that they need
and understanding and compassion from the wider community.

Bless each one of us
whatever our situation, whatever our need.

Remind us this mothering Sunday to live with a child-like faith, curious to every wondrous mystery,
attentive to your every instruction, obedient to your commands and willing to share what we have with
all your children.

Help us to set our hearts on things above for you are our loving parent, our rock, our fortress, our
salvation.

Amen

Blessing

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.
Live in that steadfast love wherever
You go knowing that God so loved the world.
And the blessing of God who created You,
Christ who redeems You
and the Spirit who sustains You go with You always.

Amen



Lenten Studies

Easter will be holding a series of Lenten Studies every **Wednesday at 1pm**. Each session should last about an hour and will be conducted via Zoom. If you are interested in taking part, please email Louise:

elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

by Tuesday morning and she will send you the link.

Sunday Club is taking place on Zoom this term. Fortnightly beginning on Sunday 24th January at 4.30pm. We'll have a Bible story, games and activities together for around 45 minutes. If your child would like to join in then contact Heather at familyworker_jvp@outlook.com for details.

Alastair Hardie

Please note that Alastair's funeral on Friday 19 March will now be held in the Kirk at 11 am and thereafter in the Graveyard at 11.30 am

Sunday—21 March

Bring your favourite cup (with juice/wine) and bread and we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion at home

Kirk Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Easter Smart—Tel: 449 4719 email: esmart@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Hamish Leal—Tel: 449 3288 email: hamish@hamishleal.co.uk

Family worker: Heather Merriman email: Familyworker_JVP@outlook.com

Please get in touch with Nina at the Kirk Office—451 5141

email currie_kirk@btconnect.com if you need anything.

We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden.

Website: [//www.curriekirk.org/](http://www.curriekirk.org/) or [//www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/](https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/)

All sermons from Currie Kirk can be found on the Kirk's website and on YouTube—search Currie Kirk

Community for Food

The local community has been generous in donating via our justgiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/communityforfoodcurriebalernojunigreen>

Plans are continuing to supply fresh food gifts as long as funds allow and are working with the schools to assess demand and ensure they have the food provision needed to support families in need.

If you would like to donate you can do so by the following methods:

- <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/communityforfoodcurriebalernojunigreen>
- Paypal to browncarolinea@gmail.com - reference Community For Food
- Cheques can be made payable to Douglas Brown and dropped into the Currie Kirk postbox - please mark Community for Food on the back.
- Volunteers or requests for more information can email communityforfood@gmail.com
- Facebook: Search for Community For Food - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/376615179888601> - we will be advertising an online auction in the coming weeks on our Facebook page in advance of Mother's Day so look out for this as a way to donate and the chance to bid on so many wonderful prizes donated from local businesses.

Non perishable food donations can be dropped off at the Village Hall in Juniper Green between 11.00-13:00 every Saturday.



Currie Kirk Guild

Strange to think that this time last year we could still go out unmasked, meet up with friends and go for meals and drinks and all the other pleasurable things that made up our lives. Yet a week later we were plunged into lockdown and faced with a bewildering array of restrictions.

But we embraced new technology and the Guild continues on regardless—it takes more than a pandemic to stop us in our tracks. We had another successful zoom coffee morning on Tuesday and it was so delightful to see people's faces and have a good chat. Our next formal meeting is this Tuesday 16th March at 2pm when Tom Gordon will be entertaining us with "Stories of Covid, Coping and Comedy". Even if you are not a Guild member, you are welcome to join us. Tom is a great speaker and well worth listening to. Just email me and I will send you the link.

Another plea for Easter Eggs or contributions to buy them. If you can let me have them by **Monday 29 March** to enable me to deliver to Holy Trinity Foodbank on Tuesday 30 March in time for Easter Sunday. Thanks to those who have already contributed. I will do my best not to eat any and promise to replace any that I do!!

Contact details are elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk or 13, Dolphin Gardens West.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Louise Lamont Guild President



Celebrate those who love you

These resources are designed to help you explore the Bible as a family together at home while we can't go to church. Be as creative as you want to be and enjoy spending time with each other and with God.

Prepare yourself...

Generous God,
you love the world, and us,
so much that you gave us your only
Son, Jesus,
to be light for us all.
We praise you for your love and for the
gift of life.
Amen.



Challenge...

Write down on separate bits of paper people that care for us in any way. Fold the papers up and put them all in a bowl or hat. Play a game of charades using the papers, miming what that person might do for the others to guess who they are.

Question...



What is the best gift you have ever received?
What is the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you?



Read the Bible...

Re-watch the Today is about you animation. <https://vimeo.com/392673993/e318a47ff5>

Choose which of the women stood out to you then read their stories in the Bible (see next page for references). You might want to think about more than one character if you have time.



Talk together...

- * Anna – Luke 2:36-38
 - * The midwives of Israel – Exodus 1:15-21
 - * Naomi – Ruth 1:3-18, 4:13-19
 - * Sarah – Genesis 18:9-10, 13-15; 21:1-3
- * Lois & Eunice – 2 Timothy 1:5-7
 - * Pharaoh's daughter – Exodus 2:1-10
 - * Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:1-11, 20, 24-28
- * How would you explain who they are in 3 sentences?
 - * How does the story make you feel and why?
 - * Why do they stand out to you?
 - * Did they remind you of someone you know?
 - * What is their important mothering role?
 - * What can their story teach us about God?
 - * Share together some of the stories of the women God has placed in your life.

Play together...

Look up or draw some emoji faces, as many as you can.

Try and put the faces in order of the emoji's feeling, with the most loving at one end and least loving at the other.

Do you all agree with the scale?

Pray together...

Find a photo of someone who has made an impact on your life. If you don't have a photo then you could draw a picture of them or just write their name down.

As you hold the photo or drawing, say a prayer of thankfulness to God for that person and the role they have played in your life.

Lord Jesus, thank you for all the women who are mothers to us. Help us to also show love to people, just like you do.
Amen.

Make something...

Today is Mother's Day. Even if we don't have a mother figure in our life, we all have someone who cares for us, loves us and shows us grace. Think about who that person is for you then make something for them: make them a drink, make their bed, make them a card, make them a cake, make them an acrostic poem of their name...be creative in how you show your love to them today or this week.



Praise together...



[Big family of God](#) by Nick & Becky Drake
[Build my life](#) Housefires
[Lord I lift your name on high](#)

Lenten Appeal for Leprosarium

Isn't it a small world? After our initial request two weeks ago for donations for St Luke's Leprosarium in South India, we received an email from former Currie Kirk member, Colin Sharp, in Rothesay, who is still sent our Sunday services pdf.

He had seen the mention of St Luke's and said that he and his wife first became interested in the hospital after hearing Gordon MacKinlay talk about it in Currie Kirk after his visit there in 2003. They have continued to support the leprosarium ever since and visited themselves in 2007. He forwarded us the report below which they had been sent last month about a patient in one of the beds they support.

"Write up on Mr.B.Beerthakkara, Adopted by Mr & Mrs Colin Sharp, UK

Date:24.02.2021

Name : B. Beerthakkara.
 Age in years : 71 / 2021.
 Gender : Male.
 Religion : Muslim.
 Occupation : Ward boy in SLLP.
 Marital status : Unmarried.
 Health status : Leprosy subject.
 L.R.No. : 3890.
 Economic status : Very poor.
 Place : Pettai, Tirunelveli (Dist).
 Bed Occupied : Red bed.
 Donor's name : Mr. & Mrs.Colin Sharp, U.K.
 Last update : 03.03.2020.



PARENT'S STATUS:

Father's Name : Beer Mohammed.
 Is he living? : Died at the age of 95yrs in 2010.
 Mother's Name : Mahamudha.
 Is she living? : Died at the age of 70yrs in 2000.

Name of the siblings	Gender	Age in years	Marital status	Occupation	Health status
Sevakka	F	Died with diabetic complications at the age of 50yrs in 1990.			
Haibah	F	79/2021	Married	Housewife	Free from leprosy
Seyad Mohammed	M	74/2021	Married	Coolie	Free form leprosy

This is an update of your sponsored patient. Beerthakkara is a permanent patient in our leprosarium. He has loss of sensation over his feet. He had an ulcer in the right leg. We did dressings regularly. He was having chronic back pain. We diagnosed lumbar spine compression. Now he is on regular traction. He is working as a ward-boy in our leprosarium. He is helping the disabled patients in the ward. He is doing well. He likes it here. We gave him special gifts during our Christmas function. We thank you once again for helping us take care of him."

This says very eloquently why we would like to support St Luke's at this time. If you would like to make a donation, please put it in an envelope, address it to Eddie Pigott, mark it 'St Luke's' and put it through the letterbox of the Church Office. If you would like it to be gift aided add a dated note saying this. Cheques should be made payable to 'Currie Kirk'.

Alternatively you can make a direct transfer into the Currie Kirk bank account by sending it to Sort Code: 80-06-20; Account No: 00336407 and marking it 'St Luke's'. It would help if you could then email Eddie at: pigottsef@icloud.com letting him know that you have sent a donation and saying if you wish gift aided.

Hamish Leal, Session Clerk