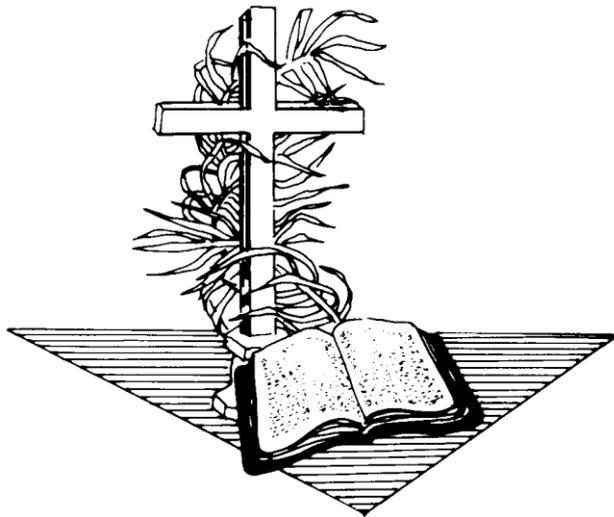


THE BROOKE BENEFICE

Resources for

Sunday Worship



Sunday 22nd March

Lent Four - Mothering Sunday

These resources are aimed at helping us to worship together on a Sunday during this time when we cannot meet as a congregation.

Please try to make Sunday, our celebration of the resurrection, a day that is different from the rest of the week.

Those living in the same household are encouraged to share worship together where possible.

A service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury will be broadcast on BBC Radio Norfolk at 8am.

I will pray on behalf of all of us in one of our churches at 10am.

The Collect:

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 Gospel Reading:

John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Ideas for Reflection:

This is one of the few Bible readings where the influence of women in the life of Jesus has remained "on record". At the foot of the cross stood his mother and his aunt, along with some of the women who met him during his ministry and were drawn to his way of life. These were the women who cared for his baby needs and who supported him financially and practically in his adult life. We must assume that they had his ear, and guess that some wise words were uttered along the way.

Who are the women who have influenced your life and how have they helped you to become the person you are today?

Even as he was dying on the cross Jesus was concerned for the welfare of his mother and one of his closest friends. In the midst of his precious outpouring of love for us, he also set us an example of building community; not based on blood relationships but on relationship with him. Our crucified Lord, who we know rose again too, calls us to build community with everyone we meet because of our relationship with him.

What are the challenges in building community with those who are “not like us” and how can we overcome them?

When the angel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God, her reply was “let it be according to God’s Word”. She opened herself to the possibility that God can do the impossible and offered her life in service. In time she came to experience the heartbreak that was part of her role.

Imagine being Mary in today’s reading. What were her thoughts and what were her prayers? Can they teach us anything about our relationship with God and the way that we cope with suffering?

Ideas for Prayer:

For mothers – all over the world; all ages; all situations!

For Mother Church – especially at this time, for leaders making decisions about responses to the Corvid 19 Pandemic.

For our Benefice – those offering help to people who are isolated, those building community, those who are alone or afraid.

For those who are unwell or vulnerable, especially at this time – for all working in the caring professions and those working in our NHS

For those who have died – remembering mothers whose children have died, and children whose mothers have died.

Closing Prayer:

God our mother,
you hold our life within you,
nourish us at your breast,
and teach us to walk alone.
Helps us so to receive your tenderness
and respond to your challenge
that others may draw life from us,
in your name.
Amen

Janet Morley

Sunday 22nd March : A day of Prayer and Action

The Archbishops, along with leaders in other churches, have asked that we keep this Sunday as a day of prayer and action.

Please pray for our Government and for those making decisions about the "right " action for us to take as we respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pray too for those who are vulnerable to the infection and for all "key workers", including medical staff.

Use today to get in touch with someone by telephone or e-mail, write a letter, set aside some food for the Foodbank, or offer to shop for someone who is self-isolating.

**Please place a lighted candle in your window
at 7pm on Sunday evening
as a symbol of the inextinguishable Light of Christ.**