

## Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Week: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Mothering Sunday

**Old Testament:** 1 Samuel 1: 20-end

**Psalm:** Psalm 34: 11-20

**New Testament:** 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

**Gospel:** John 19: 25b – 27

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, by The Venerable Patrick Evans

This short stark gospel reading pulls no punches about the cost of motherhood. Luke tells how Simeon who has been faithfully waiting for the Messiah holds the baby Jesus in his arms and speaks sombre words about opposition to the life of this child... 'he will be opposed ...the rising and falling of many', and then to Mary 'a sword will pierce your own soul too'.

Luke is telling us that this is what happens when the kingdom of God faces the kingdom of the world. As Luke's gospel unfolds, we watch these forebodings come true. Mary will see her son rejected by the very city and people to whom he had offered peace. From the warmth of her womb to the stillness of the grave Mary knew the joy and pain of motherhood.

Mothering Sunday today invites us to give great thanks for our mothers, the warmth and security of home, sense of identity and belonging, the heartbeat of so much love. Parents know all about the happiness and pain of love, the loving and the letting go. What anguish Mary must have felt over the years as Jesus grew and left home for that 'wandering preaching' and the conflicts that would lead him to crucifixion .....yet she was faithful in that love for her child and was with him to the end at the cross, the final letting go. Luke is a wonderful story teller and its worth reading this section of Ch 2 v 21 to v 40.

### Collect for Mothering Sunday

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.

**A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of  
England.** This is a free number where you can  
listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join  
in worship with others.



### Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship; Lent Worship BBC 1 11.15am; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm.