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Mothering Sunday, 22nd March 2020

Collect for this week - 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 heal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Samuel 1:16—end, Colossians 3:12—17, John 19:25b—27

On this Mothering Sunday, it is remarkable that when God wants to do a great work He sends a baby. There was Moses, when God wanted to save an extended family. Then In 1 Samuel, God wanted to save a nation - Israel was in dire trouble - and He remembered a young woman who became the mother of Samuel. There is a parallel in the New Testament, when God wanted to save the world. The angel of God promised another young woman that she would have a baby, Jesus, whom she loved dearly, even to the bitter experience of a Cross, as John records.

What are our best aspirations for our children and grandchildren. The reading in Colossians is worth a close look. In fact, everyone should read and reread the beautiful description of a godly person, which is found here. These characteristics do not guarantee high achievement in the world around us, but we are assured of lives that are marked by peace and thankfulness.

The distinctiveness of church members is clearly affirmed in the first verse in the reading from Colossians - 'God's chosen ones, holy and beloved'; five virtues are listed that lead to the characteristic that is the cement of church life - *Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, 3:14.* Love always seeks the good of others.

Readings for next Sunday:

Ezekiel 37. 1-14

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45