

a service for  
MOTHER'S DAY  
RUNAWAYS



Cornerstone at Trumpington.Church

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020*

*9am in the Bakehouse*

EVE: mother to all, mothered  
by none.

### ***Welcome & Introductory Words***

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

### ***Introduction & Gathering***

We approach God bearing our grief  
**Comfort us, loving Lord.**

We approach God wounded and raw  
**Heal us, loving Lord.**

We approach God needing a mother  
**Mother us, loving Lord.**

We approach God longing for children  
**Fill us, loving Lord.**

We gather our hurting hearts,  
We gather our weary souls,  
We gather our confused minds,  
We gather our broken bodies,  
**And we promise together  
to love you with all ourselves.**

### ***Song: As the deer pants for the water 592***

**As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after Thee  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee**

***You alone are my strength, my shield  
to You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

**I want You more than gold or silver  
Only You can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye**

***You alone are my strength, my shield  
to You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

**You're my friend  
And You are my brother  
Even though You are a King  
I love You more than any other  
So much more than anything**

***You alone are my strength, my shield  
to You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

Martin J Nystrom (b. 1956)

## ***Confession***

Lord Jesus as you journeyed towards your suffering in Jerusalem, you called on those that you love to follow you. You continue to ask us to follow you. Yet often we walk away. This evening we have chosen to gather with you and each other, yet for many of us the pain associated with mothering Sunday causes us to walk, even run, away from our communities of faith.

*We confess and name those things that cause us to walk away by writing them on these feet and then placing the feet walking away from the cross.*

Eve, from whose story we will take comfort this evening, had to walk away from Eden. Her journey away from close communion with God, also the start of God calling each of us back. No matter how far we walk away, no matter how many paces we take, God continues to call each of us back. No matter how far we run, God is there and calls us back to His love.

## ***Absolution***

May God, Mother of all,  
draw us back into the loving arms  
that embrace all of who we are,  
forgive our hurts & failings  
restore us to our place in His family  
and nurture our faith with His maternal love.

**Amen**

## ***Song: Faithful One 625***

**Faithful one, so unchanging  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace  
Lord of all I depend on you  
I call out to you, again and again  
I call out to you, again and again**

**You are my rock in times of trouble  
You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm  
Your love is, the anchor  
My hope is in You alone**

**Faithful one, so unchanging  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace  
Lord of all I depend on you  
I call out to you, again and again  
I call out to you, again and again**

**You are my rock in times of trouble  
You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm  
Your love is, the anchor  
My hope is in You alone**

Songwriters: Brian Doerksen  
Faithful One lyrics © Music Services, Inc

## ***Testimony***

***God's word: Genesis 3: 1 – 13***

***Grieving space:***

Woman what have you done?

Woman what have you done?  
Oh Eve,  
mother of all  
yet mothered by none,  
the second question you're asked is:  
Woman what have you done?

The God that you love  
the only mother you've known  
the man that you've joined with  
disappointed.  
No wonder we call it the fall!

Your heart must have sunk,  
your shoulders dropped,  
your eyes, lowered to the ground:  
Woman what have you done?

Because we are still falling,  
it never stopped,  
our hearts sink,  
our shoulders drop,  
our eyes often low,  
that one poor decision  
and we still live in its shadow.

Life limited,  
childbearing complicated,  
relationships twisted,  
and the echo of blame still resounds:  
Woman what have you done?

Eve mother of all  
yet mothered by none,  
the first person alienated from mum  
the first to be accused by another  
the first to grieve the loss of a son

The first woman to sin,  
the first daughter cast out,  
the first woman blamed,  
the first mum bereaved;  
Eve mother to all  
yet mothered by none.  
Set a pattern for our pain.  
Set a pattern for our grief.  
Woman what have you done?

Gathered we grieve  
Mothers lost  
Mothers left  
Angry words spoken  
Relationships broken  
Miscarried babies  
Children never conceived  
Descendants alienated  
Offspring bereaved  
Gathered we grieve.

***Lighting of candles.***

*Silence is kept*

***Hope: Where are you?***

***Hymn: In Christ Alone 678***

**In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home—  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand."**

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***Commitment to God's family***

No matter how much or how far we may want to run and hide, God calls us back into His family. Gathered in our grief, we say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:

**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:

**for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

## **Conclusion and dismissal**

Jesus, Son of God, our true and only Saviour:  
you died like a criminal on a cross;  
but you are God who forgives.  
Once broken, helpless and in pain,  
you are God in whom there is hope  
and in whom we can hide.  
You have shown us a love beyond words:  
give us your forgiveness, hope and love.  
Amen

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.  
**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.  
**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing ...