# Mother’s Day

The following ideas have been provided for you to use to support you in your worship service this Mother’s Day. There are worship and prayer ideas, suggested Scriptures and thoughts to help guide and shape your meeting.

## Worship idea

Purchase a number of white roses and a number of red roses. Lay the white roses along the mercy seat or other suitable place.

In a prominent place, provide a vase with some water in.

Acknowledge that whilst Mother’s Day can be a time of great celebration for many, for others it can bring a sense of sorrow.

* + We might remember mothers and mother figures who are no longer with us
  + We might remember mothers who didn’t always treat us with love
  + We might remember children who should call us mum but are no longer here
  + We might remember those who long to be called mum
  + We might remember the step-mums who find the day tricky
  + We might remember the adoptive mums who acknowledge the joy of their child and the grief of the difficulties they sometimes lived through
  + We might remember the foster-mums who hold that title for a short while
  + We might remember the single women who are often aunties to many but never have been called mum
  + And many, many more.

Play the Matt Redman song ‘One Day’, which can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGAdaGbmfFs>

In acknowledgement of those mothers/women who are no longer with us and of those for whom today is a struggle, invite people to come up at any point during the song and take a white rose and place it in the vase.

At the end of the song, offer each woman in the congregation a red rose as a reminder that Jesus sits with us in our grief and pain.

## Prayer time

Spend time thanking God for the mother figures in our lives. Have cards/postcards available and encourage people to take one and write a message to say thank you to someone for loving them. Explain this doesn’t need to be their mum, but someone who has cared for them in their life.

Thank God for the qualities of mums they see in their church family. Encourage people to share out loud prayers or words that come to mind.

## Corporate Prayer:

Lord, today we come to you and thank you for the mothers in our lives. We thank you for the care and love that they have shown to us throughout the years. We thank you that they give us an example of your love and encourage us to love those around us.

**Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us**

Today we come to you and thank you for those who have showed us maternal love throughout our lives. For the aunties, the teachers, the stepmothers, the foster-mothers, the friends, and the church community. We thank you for the way they have taught us more about you and how they have helped form us. Help us to show these attributes in our own lives.

**Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us.**

Today we thank you for the many mums in our church. We know that being a mum is hard work and can be messy physically, emotionally and spiritually. Lord, we pray that you will bless them today, and send people to surround them with your great love.

**Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us**

Today we acknowledge that Mother’s Day isn’t easy for everyone. That this special day can come with a mix of pain, grief and longing. We pray for those who miss their mothers, those who miss their children and those who are longing to be a mother. We pray that today they will feel your love in the love and care of the people around them.

**Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us**

Lord, we thank you for your love, and that one way you choose to show us love is through the love around us. Help us to love others generously in all that we do.

**Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us**

**AMEN**

## Learning together

* Have a large bunch of flowers made up of several varieties and placed in a vase. Include a couple of flowers that are wilted, and keep to one side a couple of buds and flowers not in the vase.
* Explain that families at home, but also church families, are both like a vase of flowers. Some are big, some are small, some are buds, some are in bloom, some are colourful, and some aren’t.
* Show the wilted flowers and explain that some members of our family may feel they are drooping, or are no longer ‘in the vase’, but have been a valued and beautiful part of our family. Explain that this can be difficult for those ‘in the vase’, and it is important to remember and acknowledge these family members.
* Add the new flowers to the vase and explain that new family members can come through birth, adoption, marriage and many other ways.
* Explain that each flower is important to the bunch, and each individual is important to the family. And, even more incredibly, we are all part of God’s family and are accepted as beautiful and valued family members.

## Scriptures

1 Kings 17:7-16 – Elijah and the widow of Zarapeth

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – One body, many parts

## Thoughts

* When we look at the creation story of God making humans in Genesis 2:18, we see that we were made to be in community. God made us to be with other people, and each of us plays a part.
* When we think about our life and our church family, we can see mother figures who care and have helped through the good times and the bad.
* When we look at 1 Kings 17:7-16 we read about a woman who chose to care for one of God’s people, despite the difficult time she was facing herself.
* When the woman, the widow of Zarapeth, agreed to trust God and care for the person in need in front of her, God honoured her and gave her what she needed. She could easily have refused to help, and many people would have said she would have been right to do so.
* We also see after this story that God then uses Elijah to help the woman when her son was ill.
* Today on Mother’s Day we all come with different experiences and feelings. Some of us may have had brilliant mothers and will be celebrating with them today, and others may wish they were celebrating with their mum. Some people may have some difficult and painful memories of their mother and others still may be dealing with the grief of not having a child here on earth to call them mum.
* This story in the Bible shows us that when we are in community together, God will send us ‘mothers’ to care for us and will use us as ‘mothers’ for others. We come to belong to the family of God.
* The passage in 1 Corinthians 12 explains how each of us has a part to play in the body of Christ and the care of each other, and that the part we each play is important.
* Today, on a day when we consider the mother figures in our lives, maybe we should look beyond those we call mum, but also acknowledge and thank those who have cared for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs throughout our lives.
* Finally, as we consider community and the people who play a part in our lives, we must too consider those in our community, our church family, who find today hard. God calls us in Romans 12:15 to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.
* Today, as we rejoice with those who have good memories of their mothers and who still have them here on earth, and those who are celebrating the love and joy of being mum to their children, we also acknowledge those for whom motherhood is messy in many ways. We recognise those for whom this day brings great grief and sorrow.
* Each of us in the family of God can love and be loved by each other. This is a great reflection of God himself. As 1 John 4:12 says, ‘No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.’

