

Tuesday in Holy Week – ‘Woman, here is your son.’



GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

If you would find it helpful, light a candle as a symbol of God’s presence with us. As we reflect on Jesus’ words, you may find it helpful to place a photo of your friends and/or family on a table.

Call to worship

We gather in the Name of the One who calls us into being.
We gather in the Name of the One who comes, not to be served,
but to serve, and give his life that we might live.
We gather in the Name of the One who continually embraces us in sacrificial love.
We gather in the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Suggested hymns: [A new commandment](#) (StF 242) (10/18)

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.

Anonymous
Music: © Paul Leddington Wright

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
you choose to call us your daughters and sons;
you knit us together as family –
different strands, different colours,
the sum of their parts greater than the individual threads.
And you hold us together on the loom,
your love, the uniting feature of our difference.

Through this time of worship,
help us to look beyond the familiar family frame,
to broaden the weave, and multiply the strands and colours. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

John 19: 25-27

²⁵Meanwhile, 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.’²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, ‘**Here is your mother.**’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Questions for Reflection

1. Why did Jesus say these words?
2. Who do you consider to be your ‘family’?
3. What might God be teaching us about family at the moment?
4. How do these words challenge you today?

As you reflect on these words, you might like to listen to the following piece of music:

‘Lament of the Mother of God’ by John Tavener.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISe35HZpZIs>

A Time of Prayer

During these prayers, hold the photo that you placed on the table earlier. Hold your family in prayer, and ask God to speak to you about ‘family’ as you pray.

‘Woman, there is your son.’

For our families,
where they are open, loving, supportive,
that their joy might be kept safe,
Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our families,
where they are tense, troubled, fragmented,
that they might find a way through pain,
not a pathway from it,
Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our churches,
where they risk welcoming the stranger,
where in language, hospitality,
evangelism and service
they employ the imagination
rather than the book,
that they might be encouraged and surprised by joy,
Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our churches,
where they have become introverted,
suspicious of the stranger,

obsessed with dead rather than living stones,
suffocated by tradition,
that they might be redeemed
from the worship of past glory
and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit,
Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves, in this moment,
joining with people
whose journey we have not travelled,
whose depth of faith we do not know,
whose potential we cannot imagine,
that we might somehow know we belong to each other,
Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

And before you leave the cross
and we move on from this moment,
if there is one of your family
for whom we should care more fondly,
direct our gaze to them,
as you turned Mary towards John. Amen.*
(Adapted)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.

Suggested hymn: [My song is love unknown](#) (StF 277, vv.1-3) (11/28)

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?

2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but they made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)

SENDING OUT

Journey with us God, our Father and our Mother,
Call us to follow you, Jesus our Brother,
Inspire us to new ways of being Church, Spirit our Friend.
Bless us God, and send us out to embrace your daughters and sons. Amen.

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