

## Children and family talk for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.

And Happy Mothering Sunday!

And we start our worship today by singing,

### **All things bright and beautiful**

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows for our play,  
The rushes by the water,  
To gather every day.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

God gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all...

Our Bible reading today is from Exodus 2.1-10

This might be the way Moses' mother told the story.

*It was such a scary time. Pharaoh had given the order that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed and many babies were dying. When my baby was born, and he was a strong healthy boy, I didn't really know what to do. We believed that God had promised to take care of us but it was hard to live without fear.*

*I hid my new baby boy away as long as I could and I kept praying. Then I had an idea: it was dangerous but it was all I could think of to do.*

*I wove a basket from papyrus reeds and made it watertight. I wrapped my baby very carefully, and with much fear and many tears of my own, laid the baby in the basket and hid the basket in the reeds by the river.*

*My daughter stayed to keep watch and to see what happened. The next bit I only heard from her!*

*Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe. When she heard the baby crying she took him up. My clever daughter did just the right thing. 'Would you like me to go and find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby?' It all worked out better than I could have dreamed. Pharaoh's daughter even paid me to take care of own son!*

*When he was old enough, I took the boy back to Pharaoh's daughter. She took him as her own son. She named him 'Moses' because she said, 'I drew him out of the river'.*

*Well, Moses, you had three good women to care for you – and that was just the beginning of the story.*

Now let's sing again; **Jesus put this song into our hearts**

Jesus put this song into our hearts  
Jesus put this song into our hearts  
It's a song of joy  
No one can take away  
Jesus put this song into our hearts

Jesus taught us how to be a family  
Jesus taught us how to be a family  
Loving one another with  
The love that He gives  
Jesus taught us how to be a family

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony  
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony  
Different faces different races  
He made us one  
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony

Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing  
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing  
Changed our tears of sadness  
Into rivers of joy  
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance

**Let's talk about our Bible verses**

In our bible story we see a very frightened mum doing the only thing she could think of to look after her baby. She hid baby Moses, talked to God about it, and then made a plan to

keep him safe. It all worked out and Moses' mum was even paid to look after her own son by the Pharaoh's daughter. How good that God answers prayer!

We are not always aware of the things our mums or carers go through to look after us, but we know from the hugs and the way they look after us how much they love us. Today is a special day to thank and give thanks to those that look after us or have looked after us.

Here is an additional story about Mothering Sunday;

### **What can I give to my mum?**

Sam had been thinking about his mother very much. This weekend was Mothering Sunday and he really wanted to give her something that would make her feel special. Sam was ten now so he had some pocket money to spend... and he'd been saving a bit. Mum liked handbags and shoes but when he had looked at the prices in the shops, the ones he thought she'd like were way over his budget.

He'd make her a card, of course, but really he'd made so many ... and he didn't think he was much of an artist. Besides, his mum made cards to sell and hers were brilliant ... all those flowers she made and pens and paints she could use so well. She had made some special cards for Special Mothers and Sam didn't think his could ever measure up.

He thought about writing out a coupon that said IOU four times to take care of the rabbit and guinea pigs ... but he was putting the pets to bed more anyway, now that his mum was babysitting at the very posh family hotel in the park more often.

It was all getting a bit much. Sam really didn't have any more good ideas and time was slipping away. Now it was Friday ... whatever was he going to do? He asked his friends what they were going to do for their mums ... 'Oh, whatever,' had been one answer! Another friend was going to make his mum breakfast and another was going to give some flowers. Well, nothing seemed to connect with Sam.

Now it was Saturday afternoon and it was almost too late. Sam made his card ... he did pick some flowers from the field nearby and made a posy that he put in some water and hid in the garage. But he still went to bed feeling disappointed in himself.

When Sam woke up in the morning he decided that the only thing he really could do was to tell his mum how very much he loved her and how special she was to him. So that's exactly what he did.

And can you guess what happened? Sam gave his mum the posy and the card and she smiled and said 'thank you'. But when he gave her a hug and said 'Mum, I love you very much and I think you are so special' ... his mother could hardly speak and there really were tears in her eyes.

Why not try it with your mum and see what happens!

Let's talk to God:

Loving God,

we thank you for your care of us and for all your people.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you hold us in your love and protection.

When times are difficult and there is danger, you send your help through the people around us and in our lives.

We are grateful for all the things they do.

We pray today for your special blessing on all these faithful helpers

...for those whose names we can speak out

...for those whose stories we will never forget.

Help us to be helpers, too.

When we see people in need,

...people who are hungry, or sick,

...people who are lonely or sad,

may we have the courage and the resources to care.

We know that we may always bring the needs we see to you in prayer.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)