

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For fathers who have loved and supported us,  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For children and their parents:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For relatives and friends, who have been with us  
in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us  
into the family of our Father in heaven:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

**Help us to live  
as those who belong to one another,  
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen**



## PRAYERS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

### Call to Worship

Come, worship the God who said:  
As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you. *Isaiah 66:13a*  
**We will come before our God.**

Gather us now before you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.  
Like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
As we meet today and follow your example,  
protect us, support us, and feed us  
with your unconditional love. **Amen**

*Adapted from St Anselm of Canterbury*

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and 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  
bring together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*Collect for Mothering Sunday*



God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch  
over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen

*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

These prayers are taken from the online Mothers' Union resources

## A litany for biblical mothers

Eve, mother of our humanity,  
teach us true wisdom, that all life is precious in God's sight.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth, yearning for a child,  
comfort and strengthen all who know the pain of infertility.

Hagar, condemned to the harshness of exile,  
sustain those who struggle to feed their sons and daughters.

Rebecca, bride from a far-off land,  
welcome women who must bring up their families among  
strangers.

Rachel, weeping for your children,  
weep with all mothers whose children have disappeared.

Jochebed, mother of Moses and Miriam,  
lend your ingenuity to women who seek protection for their  
children.

Naomi and Ruth, bound together by a love greater than blood,  
show us how bitter disappointment can become the sweetness of  
hope.

Mary, daughter of Israel, mother of Jesus,  
share with us God's secrets you have pondered deep within your  
heart.

*From New Start Worship Resources for the Millenium, Book 2.*



Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering  
across the world.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us,  
comforting and carrying us in her arms.

*As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you – Isaiah 66:13.*

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us  
and that he knows each one of us  
just as a mother knows her own children.

*Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she  
has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. Isaiah  
49:15*

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

David wrote that in God's presence,  
he was quiet and at peace,  
trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms.

*No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers' arms.  
Psalm 131:2*

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother,  
longing to wrap his arms around us  
like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

*How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen  
gathers her chicks under her wings... Matthew 23:37*

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

