

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 15 March 2015

Mothering Sunday REFRESHMENT



Your FATHER'S good pleasure is

M eeting your need,
O rdering your steps,
T reasuring your worth,
H ealing your hurt,
E xalting your purpose,
R edeeming your soul,
I nspiring your trust,
N urturing your growth; in short,
G iving you

REFRESHMENT

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

(Isaiah 66.13)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – *Let us pray.*

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross 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 bind 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Mary, the
Mother
of Jesus...
a sacred
symbol
of
the worth
and dignity
of
motherhood



REFRESHMENT

Encouraging and Equipping Christians

Across the country today Anglican churches are celebrating **Mothering Sunday** as a festival in the Church calendar. Mothering Sunday is not the **Mother's Day** which the general public will celebrate on Sunday, 10 May, 2015. Mothering Sunday is the day in which we celebrate the nurture of parents and of course especially of mothers. The kaupapa for this Mothering Sunday is **REFRESHMENT**, in the sense of being renewed by

receiving comfort from God when faced with hardships.

A mother may face all kinds of hardships. The life of her child may be threatened as Moses' mother experienced when the infant Moses' life was threatened so that she had to hide him (Ex. 2:2). Perhaps you as a mother have a child who has a serious illness threatening his or her life? Or a mother may face hardship through seeing her child being killed as Jesus' mother experienced when Jesus was killed on a wooden cross and sorrow, like a sharp sword, broke her heart (Lk. 2:35). As his mother, she felt the pain of his death. Perhaps you as a mother have had the experience of seeing your child die and sorrow broke your heart?

As a mother, when faced with such hardships as these, the first thing you need is a relationship with the Lord God. As it is God who comforts and renews or refreshes the person experiencing hardship (2 Cor. 1:4). All true comfort comes from God (2 Cor. 1:3). And the word *comfort* in the epistle passage for today from 2 Corinthians 1 means *to encourage and support someone in their hardship*. So all true encouragement and support comes from God. No matter what kind of hardship you as a mother may be experiencing, and no matter how great it is, God will always provide strength and encouragement (comfort) that is adequate for your need. He will give you more comfort than you have hardship and renew or refresh you.

Nevertheless God does not intend this encouragement and strength to end with your personal benefit. Its further purpose is to enable you to become God's representative in extending God's comfort to other mothers in their hardships. As God comforts you in all your hardships, you are to comfort other mothers in any and every one of theirs (2 Cor. 1:4). Similar experiences enable you to be supportive of other mothers and in this way be effective encouragers and comforters.

Are you as a mother going through a time of hardship right now? Then open yourself up and let godly mothers pass God's comfort on to you so that you can experience a time of refreshing. Or are you a mother who has, yourself, experienced first-hand the comfort and refreshment of God? As has been said, that comfort was not given for you alone. It is given to you to be passed on to other mothers. So draw near to other mothers in their time of hardship and comfort them with the comfort with which you yourself have been comforted by God.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.



Times of...
refreshing



The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 2:1-10



A reading from Exodus chapter 2 beginning at verse 1.

Moses Is Born

¹ A man and a woman from the tribe of Levi got married. ² ***She became pregnant and had a son by her husband. She saw that her baby was a fine child. And she hid him for three months.*** ³ After that, she couldn't hide him any longer. So she got a basket made out of the stems of tall grass. She coated the basket with tar. She placed the child in the basket. Then she put it in the tall grass that grew along the bank of the Nile River. ⁴ The child's sister wasn't very far away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile River to take a bath. Her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ When she opened it, Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby. He was crying. She felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister spoke to Pharaoh's daughter. She asked, "Do you want me to go and get one of the Hebrew women? She could breast-feed the baby for you."

⁸ "Yes. Go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother.

⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and feed him for me. I'll pay you." So the woman took the baby and fed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter. And he became her son. She named him Moses. She said, "I pulled him out of the water."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



The Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7



A reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 1 beginning at verse 3.

Praise to the God Who Gives Comfort

³ Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. ⁴ ***He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. We ourselves receive comfort from God.*** ⁵ We share very much in the sufferings of Christ. So we also share very much in his comfort.

⁶ If we are having trouble, it is so that you will be comforted and renewed. If we are comforted, it is so that you will be comforted. Then you will be able to put up with the same suffering we have gone through. ⁷ Our hope for you remains firm. We know that you suffer just as we do. In the same way, God comforts you just as he comforts us.

Let us all say together in te reo Māori the reading below from 2 Corinthians chapter 1 beginning at verse 3. Kia pānuī tātou.

[CONTINUED OVER PAGE]

³ Kia whakapaingia te Atua, te Matua o to tatou Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti, te Matua o nga mahi tohu, te Atua o te whakamarie katoa;

⁴ ko ia hoki te kaiwhakamarie i a matou i o matou paweratanga katoa, e taea ai e matou te whakamarie te hunga e pehia ana e te aha, e te aha, ma te whakamarie e whakamarie nei te Atua i a matou.

⁵ I te mea kei te hira tonu nga mamae o te Karaiti i roto i a matou, kei te pera ano te hira o to matou whakamarietanga i roto i a te Karaiti.

⁶ Na, ahakoa tukinotia matou, he mea tena kia whakamarietia ai, kia whakaorangia ai koutou; ahakoa ranei whakamarietia matou, he mea tena kia whakamarietia ai koutou, koia tena e mahi na, i a koutou ka whakaririka kau na ki aua mamae e mamae nei ho ki matou:

⁷ e u ana hoki to matou whakaaro ki a koutou, i te mohio iho, ka uru na koutou ki nga mamae, ka uru ano hoki koutou ki te whakamarietanga.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:33-35

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 33.
Praise and Glory to God.*

³³ The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them. He said to Mary, Jesus' mother, "This child is going to cause many people in Israel to fall and to rise. God has sent him. But many will speak against him. ³⁵ The thoughts of many hearts will be known. ***A sword will wound your own soul too.***"

*This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.*

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

He comforts us in all our troubles.

[2 Corinthians 1:3, 4]

1. PLEASE SPEND SOME TIME EACH DAY PRAYING FOR **THE BISHOP**, FOR GREAT WISDOM AND GREAT HUMILITY.

2. "DEAR LORD OF MERCY AND FATHER OF COMFORT,

*YOU ARE THE ONE WE TURN TO FOR HELP IN MOMENTS OF WEAKNESS AND TIMES OF NEED. WE ASK YOU TO BE WITH YOUR SERVANT **ANGELA** IN HER ILLNESS. PSALM 107:20 SAYS THAT YOU GAVE YOUR COMMAND AND HEALED. SO THEN, PLEASE GIVE YOUR COMMAND TO HEAL YOUR SERVANT. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, DRIVE OUT ALL ILL-HEALTH AND SICKNESS FROM HER BODY. AS YOU HEAL AND RENEW YOUR SERVANT, LORD, MAY SHE BLESS AND PRAISE YOU."*

AMEN.