

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, March 11, 2018

In some parts of the world, today is known as Mothering Sunday. So let us take a minute to send loving thoughts to our mothers and grandmothers, to all those who have mothered us in our lives, and those for whom we have been as mothers or fathers. I particularly think of the thousands of grandmothers in Africa and around the world who have had to become mothers to their grandchildren, because of sickness, death or addiction. Their courage and steadfastness are an example to us all.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer**

As we welcome the signs of spring, snowdrops, crocuses, buds on the forsythia, and realise that the days are becoming longer, we give thanks that our Mother Earth is doing her best, in spite of our careless treatment of her.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.**

We ask for courage and determination as the rebuilding of our beloved church progresses. May we all rise to this challenge, and to the other challenges that face us: health issues, work situations, worries about family and friends, and know that we are here to support each other. We give thanks for the skills of all who are working here on our building, and pray for their safety and well-being. We give thanks to those who set up this hall for our worship week after week. We pray that our efforts to raise the necessary money will not overshadow our real purpose here, which surely is to strive for justice and mercy for all.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.**

I will finish with the 113<sup>th</sup> logon from the Gospel of Thomas – food for thought: His disciples said to him: When will the Kingdom come? Jesus said: It will not come by waiting for it. It will not be a matter of saying “here it is’ or ‘there it is’. Rather, the Kingdom is spread out on the earth and men do not see it.