

Mothering Sunday All-Age Family Service

March 18th 2012

Theme: The Mummy Returns!

John 11

DRB: Good Morning and a warm welcome to St Andrews and this time of worship as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. During our time together we will be celebrating the love of our mothers for us and thanking God for those who have been mother figures for us enabling us to know the reality of God the Father's love for us. (read 1 Peter 3:4/5) A love that we will discover can set us free. When we think of freedom we have to imagine what it would be like to be bound up, in ancient times there was the tradition of binding up a body or mummification and so this morning let's meet our 'Mummy'.

Mummified person walks in and then out again (Mark Nicholas).

But more about him later! Let's worship together

Worship: Light of the World You Stepped down into darkness (SF1419) when you are bound up like this it must seem very dark: lets sing to the one who is Light of the World.

Prayer & Lords prayer (modern words on screen)

PowerPoint One

Introducing John 11 reading dramatised. (The Message) presented by the Dan's Young people.

**A Sketch based on John 11 from the Message Bible
Adapted by LMB = The Death of Lazarus**

Characters: Martha, Mary, Lazarus, servant, Jesus, Disciples

Start with Lazarus sitting on a chair at front, with Martha and Mary fussing around looking concerned, a servant standing to

the side holding something useful like a broom.

Narrator: Now let me introduce some of the people from our Bible Story today.

This is Lazarus *Lazarus stands up from the chair where he has been sitting looking very frail*

He is feeling very sick, *L: stands and coughs slumps down again*
He lived in the town of Bethany, with his sisters Mary and Martha. *Nar: gestures towards the sisters who acknowledge who they are with a nod of the head.*

This was the same Mary who anointed Jesus' feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. Now because their brother Lazarus was sick, the sisters sent word to Jesus.

Sisters: *turn to servant and say*

Go and find Jesus and say "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."

Servant leaves (runs up aisle and back to front where Jesus is now standing)

Narrator: When the servant got to Jesus he gave him the message *(Servant could read message on a piece of paper)*

Servant: "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."

Narrator: Jesus replied

Jesus: "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

Narrator: Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days. After the two days, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: "Let's go back to Judea."

Narrator: However Jesus' disciples were not too sure that they should go back as they knew that the Jews wanted to Kill Jesus, so they said

Disciples: "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jews are out to kill you, you can't go back?"

Narrator: However Jesus said to His disciples

Jesus: "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. I'm going to wake him up."

Narrator: The disciples looked puzzled and said

Disciples: "Asleep! Master, if he's gone to sleep, he'll get a good rest and wake up feeling fine."

Narrator: Jesus was talking about death, while his disciples thought he was talking about taking a nap. Then Jesus became explicit.

Jesus: "Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. You're about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let's go to him."

Narrator: So the Disciples decided to go with Jesus even though they thought they might be killed.

Jesus and disciple walk off to the side and return to front where Martha is standing by the empty chair

When Jesus finally got to Bethany, he found Lazarus was already four days dead.

When Martha saw Jesus she said

Martha: "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you."

Jesus: "Your brother will be raised up."

Martha: "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

Jesus: "You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. Everyone who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

Martha: "Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

Narrator: After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear

(Mary is standing to the side, Martha goes to her)

Martha: "The Teacher is here and is asking for you."

Narrator: The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying,

Mary: "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Narrator: When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said,

Jesus: "Where did you put him?"

Martha and Mary: His grave is here, come and see.

A grave could appear on the projector?

Narrator: Jesus saw the grave and wept. People watching said "Look how deeply he loved him." Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."

Then Jesus, began to have anger welling up within him, He arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said,

Jesus: "Remove the stone."

Martha: "But Master, by this time there will be a terrible smell! He's been dead four days!"

Jesus: "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Disciples: "Go ahead, take away the stone."

Narrator: They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed,

Jesus: "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me." (He shouts), "Lazarus, come out!"

Narrator: Lazarus came out, wrapped from head to toe, in grave cloths

Jesus: "Unwrap him and let him loose."

Video Clip: From World Cup Final: 'They think it's all over! Now it is! (Kenneth Wolstenholme) plus comment from Pastor David: the Crowd thought Lazarus was dead, even Lazarus thought he was dead but Jesus knew otherwise!

Talk One: Mum & Mother Church

PowerPoint Two

Some Bible Examples: Moses Mum (Exodus 2: gave him up got him back)/ Mums who came to Solomon arguing over a baby: cut him in two: real mum says no! (1 Kings 3:16f)/ James & John's Mum (Matt.20:20f can they have top places in your kingdom: want to suffer like me says Jesus?/

Timothy's Mum Eunice & Grandma Lois prayed him into the Kingdom!

My Mum is the Light of the World!

Affirming Mummy:

What's good about Mum? Ask congregation

Back to the Cathedral

Affirming Mother Church: St Andrews is like Spiritual Mother to me! Helps me into a relationship with God through Jesus!

Church/Christians who have been a spiritual Mum to us?

What congregations have been like a Spiritual Mum to you?

Who has mothered you in Jesus?

Share an example with the person next to you!!

Worship Time

You are the King of Glory (Actions)

Our God is a great big God (Actions)

I'm accepted I am forgiven (Receive this gift and truth)

Jesus Wept! (v35): what is the shortest verse in Bible?

PowerPoint Three

Talk Two: Hold onto your Fork! (each person has a fork?)

Sisters and Their Reactions (Mary & Martha)

They wanted Jesus there.

Isn't just for sunny times, nor just to be a comfort in the storms. Cares for us and is unchanging no matter how changeable the circumstances of our lives are.

It's all right to be sad.

Even Jesus cried. He never needs us to pretend. When sad things happen (people / animals die) it is absolutely all right to be sad about it.

We can trust Jesus

October '87 hurricane / Tsunami in Japan / Flash flooding. Do we trust the weather forecast? Yes / No

Martha: Do you trust that those who believe in me will live forever?

Her reply showed no reservation 11v27 Yes Lord I believe!

Life is short..epf! (eat puddings first!)

Story: All to receive Faith Fork (keep hold of it!) told by Lorna

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things in order, she contacted her minister and asked him to come to her house to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the funeral service, what Bible verses she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favourite Bible.

Everything was in order and the minister was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. 'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly.

'What's that?' came the minister's reply.

'This is very important,' the woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.' The minister stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. 'That surprises you, doesn't it?' she said.

'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the minister.

The woman explained. 'In all my years of attending church socials, I always remember that when the dishes of the main

course were being cleared away, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork". It was my favourite part, because I knew that something better was coming - like velvety chocolate cake or apple pie. Something wonderful to look forward to! So, when people come to see me there in that box with a fork in my hand I want them to wonder, "What's the fork for?" Then I want you to tell them: Keep your fork - because the best is yet to come.'

The minister's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman before he left. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her. *But he also knew that she had a better grasp of the future than he did. She knew that something better was coming.*

Ask the children to close their eyes and think of anyone they know who is sad at the moment, either because they are grieving or for some other reason. Ask them, if they want, to pray for that person in their own words, remembering that Jesus is stronger than death.

Dear God,

Thank you for the reminder in that story that the best is yet to come.

Thank you that we have a hope and a future because of Jesus.

Father we think of those people who feel that their future holds no hope.

We remember today all the people in the world who are feeling sad.

We remember in particular those people who are separated from family and friends because of distance, a break down of relationship or wars.

We remember those who have lost a loved one through death, Lord we ask that you would be very close to them at this family time.

Lord help me to help those who are feeling, ill, lonely or sad, or those who have no one to play with or be their friend.

May your love flow through me to them that they might be free from all that trouble them.

In Jesus Name Amen

Worship

*Faithful One So Unchanging (SF89) Offering taken up
When we walk with the Lord (SF599) say to each other: Trust
and Obey!!!!*

Lord he stinketh! (v39) AV

PowerPoint Four

Talk Three: Celebrating Life!

Lazarus Come Forth (v43)...but he was slow...

The Mummy Returns! Mark comes in.

Jesus is Resurrection and the Life.

Taking Off the Grave Clothes (we may be alive but we act
as if we are dead).

1. Nobody loves me
2. I am useless
3. My life is going nowhere

Be Free! Short prayer.

Act as if you are alive!

Give Flowers whilst the person is with you, not after they
have gone! (The Princess Diana Dynamic)

Prayer time led by Bright Sparks

Worship

Now Thank we All Our God (SF405) Flowers distributed

Grace (Words on Screen)