

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

Gracious,  
Loving God,  
we cannot thank you enough for your great goodness and kindness –  
your gifts which so often are taken for granted;  
gifts which you have so richly provided for us through your unfailing love.  
We can never thank you enough,  
but as we bring our gifts of money a token of our love  
we pray that it may be used for the growth of your kingdom  
and for your glory locally and further afield.

We thank you for talented composers and musicians  
through whom we have worship songs,  
old and new,  
which assure of your love and care.  
This morning telling us you are our Guide,  
our shield and protector;  
that you feed us and hold us close:  
and in these times when the world is rough  
you give us courage and although the going may be tough  
we can keep on loving in the certitude  
that you are travelling this journey of life close beside us.

Today is Mothers' Day  
and we thank you for mothers,  
recognising the pressures and demands they experience,  
especially over the past twelve months  
oftentimes struggling to make ends meet,  
and the daunting challenge of home schooling  
unable to get help from grandparents and friends.

We pray for mothers who have experienced  
the heartbreak of children stillborn or seriously disabled –  
our prayers go out for mothers,  
so often on their own,  
who every moment of every day selflessly care  
for a mentally or physically handicapped child.  
Loving God, give them strength,  
comfort and support  
and may those in authority give much needed help and assistance.

We pray for all grandmothers  
who have been unable to meet with their grandchildren  
and give them a big warm hug and enjoy their company.  
We pray that soon restrictions will be lifted  
so that families and friends can meet together.

This morning we have been reminded of your servant Moses

and we think back to the courage and love of his mother for her baby son;  
back to her creative rescue plan  
as she hid him from enemies who would kill him.  
For mothers today who live in fear,  
great danger and terror from bombings,  
upheaval and famine,  
we pray for their safety and help  
as we pray for them and their families  
we pray too for all Aid Agencies who work tirelessly  
in so many parts of our troubled world  
as they show something of Your Love and compassion.

We pray for all who are part of our lives;  
family, friends and neighbours –  
all who we would normally meet in the daily round of life but cannot at this time –  
we entrust them into your safe keeping.

Lord, Jesus Christ,  
we look forward to that great day  
when you will rule in splendour;  
when there will be an end to  
sorrow, suffering, darkness and death.  
Until that day help us to commit ourselves  
to your service  
and to work for your glory.  
In your precious name we pray.  
Amen.