

### **13. MOTHER OF JAMES AND JOHN**

I am the mother of James and John:

I asked Jesus if they could have a special place next to him in heaven. We remember mothers who believe their children can do no wrong and deserve special treatment.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

### **14. Mary**

I am Mary:

I watched my child suffer and die. We remember mothers who watch their child suffer and die.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

### **15. LOIS**

I am Lois:

Eunice and I taught Timothy our son and grandson about Jesus. We remember mothers who teach their children about Jesus.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

### **16. NAMELESS WOMAN**

I am one of the nameless women:

I was not able to be a mother, even though I would have liked to very much. We remember women who because of various circumstances are unable to become mothers.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

### **The Conclusion**

Before us is a vase of flowers, a symbol of the mothers we have remembered today. The flowers are different colours and varieties and at various stages of development, because mothers are not always the same. They are all different, And for that we give thanks to God.

4.

### **A Reflection on Mothering**

The Introduction

The Bible is full of real people, people just like us.

People with hopes and dreams who experience disappointments and joys. People with faults and with characteristics worthy of praise.

People who tried and succeeded, and people who tried and failed.

In this our time of worship together, we focus on mothers in the Bible.

Although they lived so long ago, they experienced the same joy and pain that mothers of today experience.

The Remembrance

#### **1. EVE**

I am Eve:

My son Cain killed his brother Abel because he was jealous.

We remember mothers whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstanding.

*Silence*

*Flower is put in vase*

*Silence*

#### **2. SARAH**

I am Sarah:

I was an old woman when I gave birth to my son Isaac.

We remember mothers and all women who are older but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

#### **3. REBEKAH**

I am Rebekah:

I helped my favorite son Jacob to trick his brother Esau out of his birth-right. We remember mothers who mean well but who make mistakes.

*Silence*

*Flower in vase*

*Silence*

#### **4. Moses' Mother**

I am Moses' mother:

I hid my child so that he would not be taken by government authorities. We remember mothers whose children are taken or stolen from them because of selfish or commercial interests, or government policy. 1.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **5. PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER**

I am Pharaoh's daughter:  
I found a baby in a basket and adopted him, raising him as my own child. We remember mothers who have adopted children, and mothers who have had their children adopted.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **6. HANNAH**

I am Hannah, the mother of Samuel:  
I was one of the many women who had difficulty in becoming a mother. We remember mothers who, after many disappointments, are finally able to conceive and give birth to a child.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **7. DAVID'S MOTHER**

I am David's mother:  
I watched as my son grew from being a shepherd boy to become a great king. We remember mothers who rejoice in the achievements of their children.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **8. WIDOW OF ZARAPATH**

I am the widow of Zarapath:  
When my bowl of flour and oil is gone, my child and I will die because our land is gripped by famine. We remember mothers who watch their children suffer and die from malnutrition because of famine and drought, flood or war.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

2.

### **9. BETHLEHEM MOTHER**

I am one of the mothers from Bethlehem:  
King Herod's soldiers murdered our children for no reason. We remember mothers whose children are tortured and murdered by soldiers and militia for political reasons.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **10. A MOTHER OF SALEM**

I am a mother of Salem:  
I wanted to take my children to meet Jesus but the disciples said not to bother him. We remember mothers who would like their children to know Jesus but are discouraged by modern day disciples who are annoyed by children.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **11. SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN**

I am the Syrophenician woman:  
Even though Jesus referred to me as a dog I pestered him to cure my daughter who was very ill. We remember mothers of children who are sick or disabled and will try anything to cure them.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*

### **12. WIDOW OF NAIN**

I am the widow of Nain:  
Jesus raised my son from the dead so I would not be left destitute. We remember mothers who as widows, or for other reasons, raise their children alone.

*Silence*  
*Flower in vase*  
*Silence*