

2019-03-31 ... 8.0am Mothering Sunday Communion ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

Luke 15: 11b – 32

'Lost Son and Mothering'

That gospel reading is the one set for the 4th Sunday of Lent – rather than Mothering Sunday ... but – despite no mother being mentioned – that Parable of the Lost – or rather Prodigal – Son does have links to Mothering Sunday.

I don't think I know of any family in which tension does not occur ... some have more or less continuous tensions, others intermittent ... but the tensions are there.

That's certainly true of the family in Jesus' parable ... and we're left to wonder how the tension between the elder son and his father and between the two sons – the brothers – was resolved ... or not ... and after all – a parable is a story.

And this story on this Sunday can help us to reflect:

To reflect on God and on ourselves ...

To reflect on God and his abundance of love, mercy and compassion ...

God doesn't 'give us what we deserve' – he's far more generous than that ...

To reflect on ourselves ...

- with which person do we most identify with in that story ... what does that say about us?

- who do we find it difficult to identify with in that story ... what does *that* say about us?

And – whether as a church or in our 'nuclear' family – can we be channels of God's abundant love, mercy and compassion?