

A Mother's Day Prayer

Creating God,
Today we pray for mothers. . . .
For grandmothers who have blessed us with their wisdom and love.
Thank you, God, for the warm feelings
that rise when we think of grandmothers
and the gift of parents they bore for us.

We pray for our own mother. . . .
For the safe journey through her body out into this wondrous life,
and for all the love shown, given, and shared.
Thank you for this cherished soul. . . .
for her life, her living, her love.

We pray this day for birthmothers and
for adoptive mothers who are connected by a child both love.
We pray for wholeness in their mothering and love so wide
that spaces of sorrow will give way to peace.

Bless mothers who weep today. . . .
out of loss,
loss of their own mom.
loss of a baby or the hope of ever giving birth,
loss of a child through illness or an act of violence.

Wrap your loving arms around these women and comfort them as
only you can.

And we pray your blessings on the new moms. . . .
Bless them with great joy, thankful hearts, and renewed energy.
Bless mothers who struggle in relationship with their children.

We thank you, God, this day, for other women in our lives
who have mothered us and shown us your love.

Keep making us, dear God, into children of your spirit, your love.
Thank you for entrusting us with the abilities to be mothers and chil-
dren. Help us to go forth in this day offering your mothering spirit to
all we meet. Amen.

—Kathy Fuller Guisewite
Weyers Cave, Virginia

"Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You're a tree replanted in Eden, *bearing fresh fruit* every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom" (Psalm 1:2-3, *The Message*). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

May 12, 2024, Mother's Day. Photo by Larry Aikens © Church of the Brethren.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

May 12, 2024
Mother's Day

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "A Mother's Prayer" (Ritter)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are together today because Christ has claimed us. We are called to be the body of Christ in today's world.

All: *Who are we to make such a claim? Who would see Jesus Christ when they look at us?*

One: It is not our claim that brings us together. The church is not our private club.

All: *We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs. We are drawn together by a larger purpose.*

One: We have been called by Christ for a mission. The gathered community is sent out into the world.

All: *We are here to be equipped for ministry. We have been chosen as apostles of good news.*

***HYMN #110** "Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing"

[Verse 1]

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

[Verse 2]

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music to the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

[Verse 3]

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice new life the dead receive, the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

[Verse 4]

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

[Verse 5]

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to meditate on the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus Christ has become for us the measure of life. He represents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Nourish us to become like trees, planted beside streams of water, that flourish and bear much fruit because of your constant attention and abundant provision for our needs. Be known to us here in this hour. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

MORNING ANTHEM "A Home of Grace" (Martin)
Temple Choir

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

All that we possess is a part of God's gift to the world. God's gift in Jesus Christ reminds us that what is entrusted to us is meant to be shared. May the joy we discover in God's word be passed on through our generous giving.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using PayPal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Something for Jesus" (Smith)

***Doxology** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to help. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

MOTHER'S DAY LITANY

"A Litany for Mothers" by Amy Young

One: To those who gave birth this year to their first child—

All: we celebrate with you.

One: To those who ever lost a child—

All: we mourn with you.

One: To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—

All: we appreciate you.

One: To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—

All: we mourn with you.

One: To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—

All: we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

One: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—

All: we need you.

One: To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—

All: we celebrate with you.

One: To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—

All: we sit with you.

One: To those who lost their mothers—

All: we grieve with you.

One: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—

All: we acknowledge your experience.

One: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—

All: we are better for having you in our midst.

One: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—

All: we grieve and rejoice with you.

One: And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—

All: we anticipate with you.

One: This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.

All: We remember you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #490

"Lord of the home"

[Verse 1]

*Lord of the home, your only Son received a mother's tender love,
and from an earthly father won his vision of your home above.*

[Verse 2]

*Help us, O Lord, our homes to make your Holy Spirit's dwelling place.
Our hands' and hearts' devotion take to be the servants of your grace.*

[Verse 3]

*Pray we that all who with us dwell, your love and joy and peace may know;
and while our lips your praises tell, may faithful lives your glory show.*

[Verse 4]

*Teach us to keep our homes so fair, that were our Lord a child once more,
he might be glad our hearth to share, and find a welcome at our door.*

[Verse 5]

*Lord, may your Spirit sanctify each house-hold duty we fulfill.
May we our Master glorify in glad obedience to your will.*

SCRIPTURE READING John 17:6-19

NT 111

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world,

ust as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

MESSAGE “His Prayer for Us” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #165** *“A mighty fortress is our God”*

[Verse 1]

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing, for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and pow’r are great, and arm’d with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

[[Verse 2]

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he! Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

[Verse 3]

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

[Verse 4]

That word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever!

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

***POSTLUDE** “Our Refuge and Strength” (Callender)

(Worship Resources by Lavon Bayler, “Led by Love”, p. 101 & 102)

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**Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship
Thank you for joining us in worship today.*

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