

MULBERRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Just as God is
our Father, so
God is also
our Mother.

– Julian of Norwich

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MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 12, 2024

11:15 AM

"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."

... Spanish proverb

Welcome

Prelude, Lighting of the Candles

(Sharon Whitley)

Call to Worship

God calls this people to gather now as a family.

We come knowing we are different, and yet called to be the same.

Mothers we honor on this day, fathers whose love we often take for granted, single parents juggling jobs and after-school activities, grandparents raising their children's children,

From wherever we come, we enter here as God's family to praise the one who has adopted us as children of the covenant.

Let us worship the God of our mothers, our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

May our Lord hear our voices raised in praise and in prayer, and be pleased with our offering this day. Amen.

* Hymn # 469

"Morning Has Broken"

Prayer of Confession

(unison prayer)

O God, you know what families are like. Even when we honor our mothers, we still sometime take them for granted. We whine to get our own way and ignore the needs of others. We get angry doing our share of the work around the house but are blind to all the ways we benefit from our family's support. Our mothers have made sacrifices for us, and we have not recognized it. Our fathers spend their lives to support us and we think that is a right and not a blessing. Forgive us Lord, for the ways we contribute to family tension – both at home and in this church family as well. Help us accept every family member as precious in your sight, for we ask it in the name of our elder brother Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

* Response

"Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Mother's Day Mad Lib

(Here it is, Mary!)

Mother's Day Tribute

"Mom's Purse"

(The Skit Guys)

Praise Song

"You Are My All in All"

(insert)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering our Gifts and Ourselves to God
Offertory

(Sharon Whitley)

* Response # 592

“Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Old Testament Reading:

Proverbs 31: 26 – 30

New Testament Reading:

Luke 2: 41 – 52

Sermon:

“Home Alone in Jerusalem”

(Rev. Sellers)

* A Litany of Mother’s Day

(Responsive Litany)

We pause this mother’s day to remember it as something more than a card sent, or a dinner purchased. We pause and give thanks to God for families of all types.

For mothers who stay home with their children, and single parents who struggle to be both mother and father to their children.

For grandparents who have stepped in for a child’s sake, and are raising yet another generation up in the way they should go.

For nuclear families and families-in-law,

For so many who give of themselves that a child may have the love and blessing of a parent.

And for our church family.

We are thankful for aunts and uncles, and the way they enrich our lives, for stepchildren and step-siblings, and step-parents,

For adoptive and foster families.

For non-traditional families and for traditional families,

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of family; the one we have to go home to after this worship service, and the one we now worship with as one. Amen.

* Hymn # 473

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

(Sharon Whitley)

(*Those able are invited to stand.)

(Italic words are spoken by the leader; **Bold words are spoken by everyone.**)

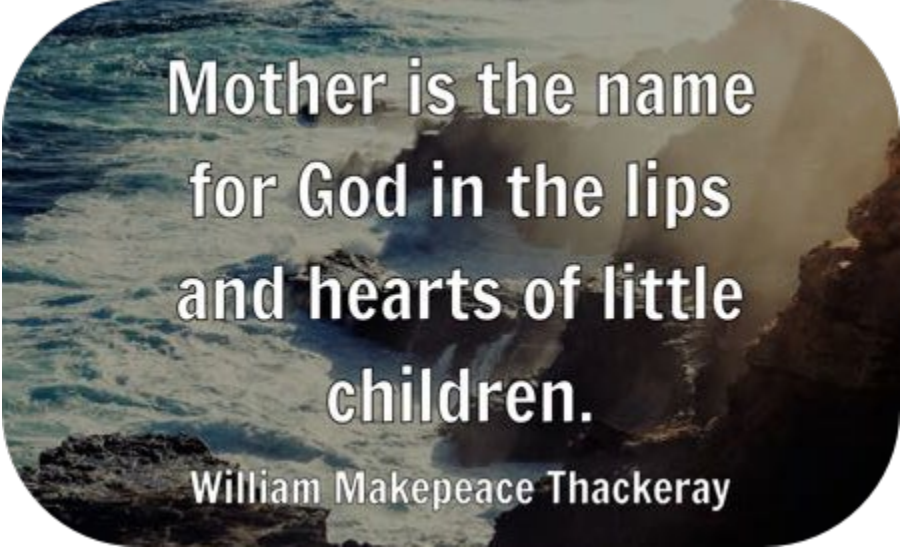
“You Are My All in All”

You are my strength when I am weak;
You are the treasure that I seek.
You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel;
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool.
You are my all in all.

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. (repeat)

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame;
Rising again, I bless your name.
You are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up;
When I am dry, you fill my cup.
You are my all in all.
(Repeat Chorus)

RPS Away: Rodger is away this afternoon through Wednesday night. He and Judy are headed up to New River State Park for a few days of paddling the South Fork of the New River. He'll be back Thursday.



Mother is the name
for God in the lips
and hearts of little
children.

William Makepeace Thackeray

Prayer Concerns – May 12, 2024

(Updated as of Friday, May 10th)

Pray for:

- ✦ **Debbie Vidal: Upcoming stress test, May 23rd.**
- ✦ **Linda and Daryl Carpenter: Daryl in hospice care.**
- ✦ **Kevin Rule: Continued recovery of her shoulder.**
- ✦ **Keisha Johnson and family (Debbie & Lupe's neighbors): Pray for guidance and safety.**
- ✦ **Vinnie Salvati: Hospitalized for heart issues.**
- ✦ **Mamie Young (From Vida Pyles): Cancer treatment.**
- ✦ **Shelia Cato: Continue recovery: Her rehab is progressing and she is making good progress.**
- ✦ **Daisy Mae Stone (Arlene's great granddaughter):**
- ✦ **Lisa Rollins' friends Mike and Fred:**
 - **Mike has recovered from surgery and no other treatment is necessary at this point.**
 - **Fred is almost finished with his treatment.**
- ✦ **Jenni Eleazer (friend of Lisa Rollins' cousin Missy): Continued healing during chemotherapy.**
- ✦ **Carl Rueger (Sharon Whitley's Dad): Prayers for vision to be restored**
- ✦ **Helen Marks: Pray for continued improvement with her vision.**

Our homebound members who have limited contact: Betty and Bill Thomason, Doris Woody, Arlene Stone.

(Prayer concerns are listed for three (3) weeks at a time. If there is a need to continue listing any concern, please let either Rodger or Debbie know an update, so we can keep this list as timely and up to date as possible.)



In our house, mother's day is every day. Father's day, too. In our house, parents count. They do important work and that work matters. One day just doesn't cut for us.

— Margaret Heffernan —

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

1st Kings 3: 16 – 27; what a great Mother’s Day passage!

(Even if at first that thought seems a bit insane!)

Two mothers come to Solomon, bringing their case for his judgment. And we all know the story well (Or we should!).

It's interesting that the fact that they are prostitutes doesn't matter at all in the context of the story. They are being spoken of and dealt with as mothers, regardless of their social standing. One mother's child had died in the night and the two women were contesting which had died and which one was still alive. I know this seems hard to believe, for I have never met a mother who could be given another baby and fooled into thinking that it was hers – although this does indeed happen, so the story does indeed have relevance. These two mothers are arguing over the living child, almost as if the child were property, which in Solomon's time, was not far from the case. His judgment,

which seems very harsh at first glance, is actually very simple. It’s also elegantly ingenious.

“Cut the child in half and give one half to each mother,” Case closed, court dismissed. What seems even more amazing to me is that this seems to be just fine with one of the mothers. It’s as if she doesn’t quite get the fact that ½ a baby isn’t quite a great idea. And when the other mother cries out to preserve the child's life, even if that means she will lose her child... then – and perhaps only then – can Solomon actually judge wisely. He knew that the true mother would not... **COULD NOT...** stand by and allow her child to be killed for the sake of an argument, even if this compassion and love for her child might mean that she would lose him forever.

It’s this special relationship that a mother has for her child that allows Solomon, in such wisdom, to end this dispute. The telling factor in this story is that the true love that the child's mother had for him would never let him come to harm, if at all possible, and it was that love that Solomon was looking for in one of the women, before he made his judgment.

Although it may – at first glance – seem harsh and cruel, this is, in fact, a beautiful story that highlights what a wonderful thing maternal love really is. It is such that there can never be enough Mother's day cards to really make the point!



... RPS

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Proverbs 31:26-30:

²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband, too, and he praises her: ²⁹ “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Luke 2: 41 – 52 (The Boy Jesus in the Temple):

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents[a] saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.” 49 He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”[b] 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years[c] and in divine and human favor.