

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Today we gather in our time of worship to share tribute to those in our lives we call Mom.
 To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you
 To those who lost a child this year—we mourn with you
 To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—we appreciate you
 To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—we need you
 To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—we celebrate with you
 To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—we sit with you
 To those who lost their mothers this year—we grieve with you
 To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—we acknowledge your experience
 To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—we are better for having you in our midst
 To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—we grieve and rejoice with you
 And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—we anticipate with you
 This Mother’s Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

Call to Worship Litany for Mother’s Day

Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us,

comforting and carrying us in her arms:

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...." (Isa. 66:13)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us.
He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

*"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"* (Isa. 49:15)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence,
he was quiet and at peace,
trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

*"But I have stilled and quietened my soul;
like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me."* (Ps. 131:2)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother,
longing to wrap his arms around us,
like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...
how often I have longed to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,
but you were not willing."* (Matt. 23:37)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Paul writes about his missionary ministry
and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

*"...but we were gentle among you,
like a mother caring for her little children."* (1 Thess. 2:7)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Mother's Day Invocation

written by Kate McIlhagga, and published in The Pattern of Our Days (ed. Kathy Galloway).

**Come, Mother God,
come as an enfolding**

nurturing presence,
come as steadfast love
to hold us.

Come, Mother God,
come as an enabling
strengthening force,
come as tough love
to let us go.

Come, Mother God,
come as friend and comforter
healing our wounds,
walking our way,
come as wounded healer
to make us whole.

***HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 707 “Hymn of Promise”**

Author: Natalie Sleeth (1986)

Publication Date: 1989

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**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree.
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody.
There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity.
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

We Hear God’s Word

**New Testament Reading.....Acts 9:36-43
New Revised Standard Version**

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.[a] She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had

made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN UMH #347 "Spirit Song"

Author: John Wimber (1979)

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[Verse 1]

**Oh let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh let Him have the things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole**

[Chorus]

**Jesus, oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus, oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs**

[Verse 2]

**Oh come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

[Chorus]

"Message"

A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God, you knit us together in our mother's womb and breathe us into being.

Thank you for the gift of life and for bringing us into this world through our mothers. We recognize the risk they took to carry us, nourish us, and protect us within their bodies.

Thank you for the women in our life, for our mothers and for those who have been like mothers to us.

We are grateful for their tenderness when we were helpless or hurt,

We are grateful for their encouragement and wisdom when we were unsure,
We are grateful for their correction and perseverance so we would stay true,
We are grateful for the way they guided us into Your saving embrace.

Too often we took their love and sacrifice for granted. Forgive us.
Help us to live in such a way that our words and actions bring honor to them and to You.

Merciful One, gather us all to the safety of your breast.

For many, this day is full of joy and celebration, but for others, it is an especially painful day. Pour out your healing, consolation, and peace on those who are grieving the loss of their mother or the loss of their child, on families separated by distance or disagreement, on families plagued by disappointment, abandonment, addiction, or abuse.

Compassionate One, shelter us all beneath Your outstretched arms. Bring your healing, consolation, and peace to women whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled, to mothers and guardians who are exhausted as they labor to balance work and raising children, to mothers and guardians who are overwhelmed as they struggle to bring up children in the midst of poverty, disease, or war.

The need is deep. Come quickly. Our hope is in You.

(At this point in the prayer, all the girls and women in the room are invited to stand as they are able. Those who are seated are asked to place a hand of blessing upon those who are standing.)

Gracious God, thank You for every woman and girl here today and for every one we have brought with us in our hearts. Reveal Your purpose and plan for their life. Bless them and protect them. Deepen their love and trust of You. Strengthen them, empower them, and anoint them with Your Holy Spirit that their faith, influence, and achievement would bring You honor and glory.

(All may now be seated)

Receive our thanks and praise again for these women and women in the making for they are precious to us and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray the prayer your beloved Son taught us to pray, our Father...

Departing Hymn UMH #557

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Author: John Fawcett (1782)

Meter: SM

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: DENNIS

Composer: Johann G. Nægeli

Arranger: Lowell Mason (1845)

**1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

**2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**3. We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**4. When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

Benediction

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

***POSTLUDE**