

PREWORSHIP MUSIC & PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION & HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: All who gather is a daughter or son.

All: *We praise God for the women who gave us life.*

One: For mothers: brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

All: *We give God thanks and praise.*

One: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

All: *We pray for peace.*

One: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

All: *We pray for healing.*

One: For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us,
but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

All: *We pray for those that mourn and give God thanks for life eternal.*

One: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

All: *We weep with those with broken hearts.*

One: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

All: *We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.*

One: For those who are preparing emptier nests,

**All: *We both celebrate and mourn with you,
and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.***

One: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

All: *We pray for wisdom and patience.*

One: For grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

All: *We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.*

One: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.

All: *We wait eagerly with you and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.*

One: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for,
and guide the children of others,

All: *We give God thanks and praise.*

One: For the grandmothers, aunts, mothers, sisters, and daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

All: *We give God thanks and praise.*

HYMN

What a Covenant²

Last Page of Bulletin

¹ Permission to use this litany for public worship is granted. Link: <http://fatpastor.me>.

² Public Domain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: In spite of God's love for us and gifts of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God; we do not love as we have been loved; we do not forgive as we have been forgiven. Together, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils the life of relationship you intend for us: for the moodiness and irritability that make us difficult to live with, for the insensitivity that makes us careless of the feelings of others, for the selfishness that makes life harder for others.

Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils our witness for you: for outwardly denying you with our lives, for what we say or refuse to say with our lips, for the difference between what we profess and our actual conduct, for any example that makes it easier for people to criticize your church, for any example that makes it easier for others to sin.

When we think of ourselves and of the meanness, And ugliness and weakness of our lives, We thank you for Jesus Christ, our Resurrected Savior. Grant us a spirit of true repentance for our sins. Give us courage to seek forgiveness from you, and from those whom we have sinned against, harmed, and hurt. Grant that at the foot of the cross we may find our burdens rolled away, And so strengthened by your Spirit that in the days to come We may live more and more nearly, as we ought. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us hear and believe the Good News: God, the Creator, brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. May we take hold of this forgiveness and live our lives in the Spirit and likeness of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

FIRST READING – Acts 9:36-43

SECOND READING – John 10:22-30

HOMILY

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE⁴

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers! Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us, and women who have treated us as their own children. You teach us how to be good mothers, cherishing and protecting the children among us. Help us mother lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy. Help us raise our children to be the people they are born to be.

³ Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Grand Rapids: The Worship Sourcebook. Prayer of Confession. Section 2:26. 2004. pg. 94

⁴ This May 03, 2011 prayer, titled: God our Mother: Mother's Day Prayer is being used today and printed with specific copyright permission by Carol Penner. www.leadinginworship.com. An email was sent to Ms. Penner on April 27, 2022, by Pastor Laura Baker, and an affirmative response was received on the same day.

One: We need your comfort here today, God,
because some are missing mothers, some are missing children,
some are parted by distance or death.
Comfort those who have given up their child for adoption,
or who chose not to give birth, and had an abortion.
Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not.
We pray for those here whose mothers have disappointed them;
we ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness,
for healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence.
help our congregation, be a space where people can feel mothered,
their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.

All: *Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world;
mothers who cannot feed their children,
mothers who are homeless,
mothers who are refugees, without a homeland;
mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets.
Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty.
Parenting God, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother,
Mothering God, who loves us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known,
hear our prayer this day, and the one we pray as Jesus taught us saying:*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: *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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist: As a congregation, we have been blessed beyond imagining! As God's people we hold many gifts in our hearts, our minds – our lives and thus, we cannot escape the truth that God's Presence surrounds us. Let us take a full minute in time, to sit in silence with God, that the Holy Spirit might help us discern the ways to use our talents and treasures for the work of God's Kingdom, through the ministries of this church. Let us pray in silence.

(Full minute of silent prayer and reflection)

Liturgist: Let us now join our hearts and voices, offering back to God the gifts of time, talent, and treasure we've discerned will be shared for ministry, in this time and place in our history.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *Gracious God, we give you these offerings as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Trusting in your gentle leading, may we follow you into the world to share your love and to do your will, to tend the lost, wounded and hungry for the sake of the healing of the world, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.*

HYMN

*My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*⁵

My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.

God has been there in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
where they built a sacred altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
God's truth is marching on. [Refrain]

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
and is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer and be jubilant, my feet!
God's truth is marching on. [Refrain]

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
God's truth is marching on. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION⁶

One: As Christ burst forth from the tomb,
May new life burst forth from us
and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world.
And may the same Christ, who lives forever
and is the source of our new life,
keep our hearts rejoicing and grant us peace,
this day and always.

All: *Amen!*

POSTLUDE

⁵ Public Domain.

⁶ Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Grand Rapids: The Worship Sourcebook. Closing of Worship. Section N.9:1. 2004. pg. 652.

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.