

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

May, 2026

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain

It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.

It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may,

For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking

And it never fails or falters, even though the heart is breaking.

It believes beyond believing when the world condemns

And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems.

It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation

And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.

A many-splendored miracle, man cannot understand

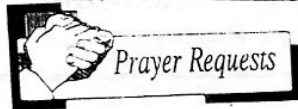
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender, guiding hand.

**("A Mother's Love" An inspirational poem by Helen Steiner Rice from her Book of Verses,
'A SPECIAL COLLECTION OF INSPIRATIONAL VERSES FOR MOTHERS')**

SPECIAL DATES

- Mother's Day, May 10th
- Ascension of the Lord, May 14th
- Pentecost, May 24th
- Memorial Day, May 25th
- Trinity Sunday, May 31st

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,
Alice & Alex Rivera

Our Online Bible Study meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining



A hymn for Pentecost

Eighteenth-century brothers John and Charles Wesley, co-founders of the Methodist Church, were prolific hymn writers. At one point, they made a concerted effort to increase the number of Pentecost-related hymns available to worshipers.

Use Charles Wesley's hymn "O Thou Who Camest From Above" as a prayer that the Holy Spirit will burn brightly in your heart and life today:

O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
upon the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for Thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.

CHURCH CHUCKLES

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. "That's good," she replied. "If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he'll help you."

"Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving," said the boy. "I prayed for God to help you put up with me."

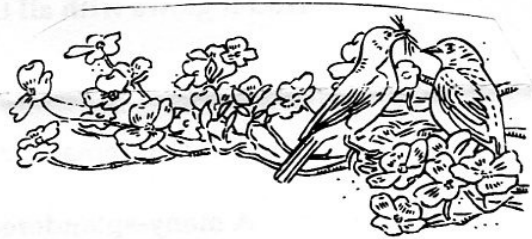
A mother told her young daughter that they had to hurry to church to worship God. But the way she spoke the word "worship" confused the child. It sounded more like "waaship" rather than "wereship."

As the littler girl approached the door to leave, the mother noticed the girl held a bar of soap and a washcloth.

"What's that for?" asked the mother.

"I want to 'wash up' Jesus in the manger," replied the girl.

On Saturday night when the Erikson family went out to dinner, they explained to their curious little boy why gratuities are given and how they are calculated. The next day at church when the offering plate came around, he whispered loudly to his father, "Dad, how much are you going to tip Pastor Paul?"



- "A child needs your love most when he deserves it least."
—Erma Bombeck

- "[A mother] never quite leaves her children at home, even when she doesn't take them along."
—Margaret Culkin Banning

As the old adage goes, April showers bring May flowers. In May, we give mothers their flowers while they can yet see the beauty therein and we give thanks unto the Lord for mothers everywhere. Mothers are also recognized and given high regard in the Bible. One of the Ten Commandments or the Decalogue commands that we are to “Honor our fathers and mothers that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee” (Exod. 20:12). of our lives may be longer: As we have just celebrated and continue to rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I reflect back on Holy Week and Good Friday. The third word Jesus spoke from the cross demonstrates the love and special place Jesus mother, Mary, in His heart. Jesus stopped dying long enough to say to his sorrowing stood at the foot of the cross with the disciple whom Jesus loved John the Revelator. Jesus said unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home (John 19:26-27). It was customary in the Hebrew norms of Jesus’ earthly ministry that the eldest son was tasked with taking care of his mother when his father died. Hence, Jesus made provisions for his mother before he died on the cross to redeem fallen humanity.

Women can experience motherhood even when they did not birth a biological child. We should also honor those women in our lives who’ve been like a mother to us after our mothers are no longer living! With Jesus as our example, let us never forget to take care of our mothers and praise God for mothers everywhere for the sacrifices they have made in order to nurture and care for their children.

The lyrics of that well-known hymn resonates with me on every Mother’s Day, as we sing,

Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air.
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

And as a child of the 70s, I have always loved the R&B song *I’ll Always Love My Mama* by the Intruders, which lyrics are,

I’ll always love my Mama
She’s my favorite girl
I’ll always love my Mama
She brought me in this world

Sometimes I feel so bad
When I think of all the things I used to do
How Mama used to clean somebody else's house
Just to buy me a new pair of shoes

I never understood how Mama made it through the week
When she never ever got
A good night's sleep

A mother's love is so special
It's something that you can't describe
It's the kind of love that stays with you
Until the day you die

She taught me little things
Like say, "Hello and Thank you. please"
While scrubbing those floors
On her bended knees

Talkin 'bout Mama
Talkin 'bout Mama
Talkin 'bout Mama

Happy Mother's Day to mothers everywhere and to those who have served as mothers
loving and nurturing those children who are not their biological children. May God bless you all!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

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Pastor

Church of the Master Reformed Church



MUST-HAVE CONVERSATIONS

Creating opportunities for family closeness requires honest conversations. Whether you're trying to be proactive, foster peace or achieve forgiveness, it takes effort to clear the path forward. Our willingness and ability to talk things out, even when it's difficult, makes all the difference. No matter who initiates these conversations, talking openly about sensitive matters is a must. The price of denying or avoiding matters of health and safety or important legal and financial decisions can be high. Making the effort to talk things out helps us adjust in a new normal and sets the table for more satisfying, memorable and less stressful time together.

- "A mother knows what her child's gone through, even if she didn't see it herself."
—Pramoedya Ananta Toer

- "If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else."
—Ann Landers

"Memorial Day"

Is it enough to think today
Of our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud
and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!

—Annette Wynne



True heroes

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

