

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

May, 2024

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

cotm47@verizon.net

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

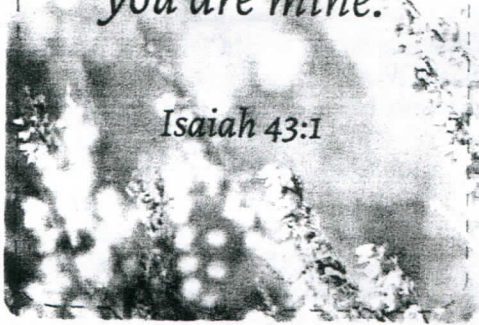
Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

Happy
Mother's Day!

Whispers
of God's Love

I have
redeemed you;
I have called
you by name,
you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1



Tender. Sweet. Uplifting.

Whispers can be all these and more. Throughout Scripture, the one true God whispers to our hearts, "You are my very own daughter, a royal princess, a crown of beauty." How amazing! And how wonderful!



Lord Jesus, forgive me for so often forgetting my high calling as a royal daughter in your very own family. You are the Prince of Peace and my precious Brother! Whisper the peace of your forgiveness and love to my heart, especially when ...



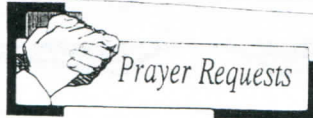
"Honor ... your
mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you ..."

Deuteronomy 5:16

SPECIAL DATES*

- National Day of Prayer, May 2nd
- National Teachers' Day, May 7th
- Ascension of the Lord, May 9th
- Mother's Day, May 12th
- Armed Forces Day, May 18th
- Pentecost, May 19th
- Trinity Sunday, May 26th
- Memorial Day, May 27th

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Ellen McCullough,
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM. The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860, code: 371231#

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

Pentecost passion

Nineteenth-century evangelist Dwight L. Moody was walking down a New York City street, thinking about a sentence he'd heard: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man who is wholly yielded to him."

Suddenly Moody felt a great yearning and cried out, "O God, make me that man!" He was so overwhelmed with God's love and with heartfelt passion to reach lost people that he had to stop at a friend's house to rest.

In *Birth of the Body*, Ray Stedman says this is what Luke is talking about when he describes the events of Pentecost. "When John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, he meant that there would be an unexplainable passion about the church."

As we feel the Pentecost passion, let's yield ourselves wholly to God and see what he does with us!



CHURCH CHUCKLES

An evangelist and a pastor were out in the woods hunting deer together, when suddenly a grizzly bear appeared and began to chase them. They raced back to their little hut, and the evangelist wrenched the door open. The pastor rushed inside and, unfortunately for him, the bear followed. Immediately the evangelist slammed the door shut from the outside.

"What are you doing?" the pastor screamed from inside the hut.

"I just bring them in, and then they're all yours!" called the evangelist.

"Your Holiness," a cardinal gasped as he ran into the pope's office, "Jesus just rode into the Vatican on a donkey. What do we do?"

The pope looked up from his work and replied, "Look busy"

As a boy, French poet Anatole France was fascinated by the story of Simeon Stylites, a Christian ascetic saint who tried to achieve holiness by living atop a pillar for 37 years. Young Anatole decided to try something similar by placing a chair atop the kitchen table.

His mother, however, wasn't a fan of his methods. She made him climb down from his perch before dinnertime, which led the boy to proclaim, "I perceive it is a very difficult thing to be a saint while living with your family."



Mother with a mission

Catherine Booth, wife of Salvation Army founder William Booth, was said to have read the Bible through eight times before age 12. In 1855, she married William, a Methodist minister, keeping the wedding simple so more money could go toward ministry.

Breaking with tradition, Catherine became active in the church, speaking in meetings and giving public testimony. While raising eight children, she raised funds for her work, which included helping alcoholics get their lives on track.

Upon her death, this "Mother of the Salvation Army" received high praise from her husband. "To me she has been made of God, never-failing sympathy, reliable wisdom and unvarnished truth," said William Booth. "In short, all that is noble and good; and consequently a tower of strength, a mine of wealth, and an everflowing fountain of comfort and joy."

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

National Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 7, 2024. **National Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 6-10, 2024. In 1980, National Teacher Day was established to show appreciation for the enriching and rewarding investment that teachers at all levels make in their students' lives. A poll conducted by the National Education Association found that teachers appreciate cards, flowers and drawings from their students. These gestures are a small way to let them know their efforts don't go unnoticed.

This year, let's join together to tell teachers that we will listen to them, we will stand with them, and together we will take action so that every student has a teacher who feels respected and supported.



How To Observe Memorial Day

According to the Memorial Day Foundation (memorialdayfoundation.org), the holiday is a national day of mourning, and began as a way to honor service members who, while in the line of duty, made the ultimate sacrifice.

The foundation offers the following tips to actively remember the Americans "who have paid the price for the blessings of liberty".

- Place flags or flowers on fallen soldiers' graves.
- Fly the American flag at half-staff until noon.
- Visit memorials
- Renew the pledge to help fallen soldiers' widows and orphans
- Assist disabled veterans.



"Mom — you deserve a raise for raising me."

The scent of prayer

It sometimes happens that in a plot of unclean and filthy ground, flowers spring up and flourish, and the sweet scent of the flowers overpowers the evil smell of the place. The plants, turning toward the sun, receive from it light and heat, and the filth instead of being hurtful to the plants fertilizes them and helps them to grow and flourish. So, too, the man of prayer as he prays turns his heart to God, and receives from him light and warmth. Amidst the ill odors of this evil world, the sweet scent of his new and holy life glorifies God, and there is produced in him not sweet odors only, but also fruit that shall abide forever.

—Sadhu Sundar Singh, *At the Master's Feet*

The phrase 'working mother' is redundant!

Expanding horizons, one foot at a time

My 8-year-old often likes to wear the pants of one outfit with the shirt of another. "I want these socks today!" he proclaims, holding up a white and a black. When I offer the stray black one I spot on the couch, he insists, "No! I *like* things different!"

What about *us* in the world ... in the church? Studies show that people tend to live near others like them. Many congregations consist predominantly of one ethnicity. We gravitate toward people who share our marital status, profession, values and views. Sometimes this is sensible, but often it limits our growth and horizons.

For a tux-clad ring bearer, matching socks are best. But when socks' only purpose is keeping feet warm at school, where my youngster feels "at home" and each child's uniqueness is celebrated, I embrace his nonconformity — and that of his socks. Would that we all appreciated diversity as much!
—Heidi Mann

Must-have traits

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver



And then there is this:

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

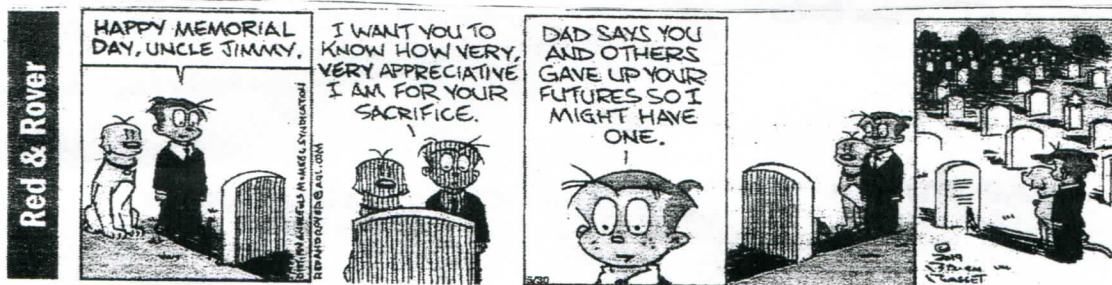
At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.





May Newsletter Article

"When May Day Becomes Mayday – Pray Day!"

According to [history.com](https://www.history.com), "May Day is a May 1 celebration with a long and varied history, dating back millennia. Throughout the years, there have been many different events and festivities worldwide, most with the express purpose of welcoming in a change of season (spring in the Northern Hemisphere). In the 19th century, May Day took on a new meaning, as an international Workers' Day grew out of the 19th century labor movement for worker's rights and an eight –hour workday in the United States. May Day 2021 will be celebrated on Saturday, May 1, 2021" ([www.https://www.history.com](https://www.history.com). (Accessed on April 14, 2021)).

When I was a little girl all the children in my elementary school looked forward to making bright streamers and wrapping them around the maypole, singing songs and reciting poems at our assembly in celebration of spring and May Day! However, it is ironic that there is a homonym Mayday that sounds very much like May Day but has a completely different meaning. Whereas *May Day* is a happy, festive event we celebrate to mark the beginning of springtime and commemorate our labor movement. *Mayday* is a distress call. According to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com) e-paper, "Mayday is a distress call that is used to signal a life-threatening emergency, usually on a ship or a plane, although it may be used in a variety of other situations. A typical distress call will start with the word "Mayday" being said three times in a row so it is not mistaken for another similar-sounding word or phrase. This is followed by relaying the information that rescuers would need, including the nature of the emergency, the location or last know location, current weather, type and identity of craft involved, fuel remaining and the number of people in danger. The distress call has absolute priority over all other transmissions" ([www.https://www.livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com). (Accessed on April 14, 2021)).

After the year we have come through, who would have thought we would still be dealing with the Covid pandemic for an entire year or more. How we are longing for springtime and May Day as we used to know it! Despite the dark challenges we have endured all of last year and the isolation from quarantining and shut-downs, we can change our Mayday distress calls into May Day Pray-Day!

While, we are not yet ready to gather around the Maypole on May Day, God is hearing and answering our Mayday distress calls and prayers! As the old adage goes, "April showers bring May flowers!" This May God has brought us flowers of a different kind. We have been blessed to have three vaccines developed in record time to help protect Americans and other countries' citizens from the life-threatening Covid-19 virus. Loved ones who were afflicted are recovering! God is wiping our tears as we cope with life without our loved ones! Families are beginning to be able to gather in small numbers with other vaccinated members. Schools are beginning to reopen for certain grades. Clinical trials of the vaccines have begun to test their efficacy in children! Businesses are slowly beginning to reopen. Financial Assistance has been

legislated to help Americans and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic! Churches are beginning to reopen for in-person worship services! And God is blessing us to have increased attendance on remote or virtual worship services and Bible study!

As we look forward to ushering in May, let us also continue to send out Mayday calls and prayers to the Lord. But, now instead of distress calls, we can send out May Day prayers of thanksgiving for where the Lord has brought us from. He has brought us from a mighty long way! We still have a way to go to get to the end of the pandemic. But, we trust that the Lord Jesus will continue to be with us and keep us. Most of all, we look forward to celebrating May Day next year and rejoicing in the Lord for what He has done, what He is doing and what He is yet going to do. Happy May Day! Happy Spring!

Shalom to you now,

Reprinted from 2023

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden
Pastor
Church of the Master



- "I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."
—Abraham Lincoln

Mistaken identity

Two cars waited at a stoplight. When the light turned green, the first driver didn't notice. The woman behind him pounded her steering wheel and yelled. When the light turned yellow, she honked, made an obscene gesture and cursed. Hearing the commotion, the man looked up and accelerated through the intersection just as the light turned red. The woman ranted at missing her chance to get through.

Suddenly, she heard a tap on her window and looked up to see a policeman. He told her to get out and place her hands on her car. The bewildered woman was hustled into the patrol car, booked at the station and placed in a cell.

Eventually, the original officer returned and apologized for the mistake. "I noticed your behavior," he said. "Then I saw the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker and the Christian fish emblem. Naturally, I assumed the car was stolen."

