

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 10th, 2020**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Kelvin Teeterville Vanessa (KTV)

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.

MOTHER'S DAY CALL TO WORSHIP

And Jesus said, "Come!"

To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"

to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"

to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"

Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart
and you will find rest for your souls."

OPENING HYMN: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

1 O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

2

2 Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conqu'rors we are!

3 His Word shall not fail you, He promised;
Believe Him and all will be well;
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

**CHILDREN'S TIME AND CHILDREN'S SONG (PRESENTED
ONLINE)**

MOTHERS' DAY LITURGY

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

We pray for older moms whose children are grown.

Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.

We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

Grant them strength and wisdom.

We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.

Grant them time to share with their families.

We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.

Grant them relief and justice.

We pray for step-moms.

Grant them patience and understanding and love.

We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

Grant them faith and hope.

We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

Grant them support and insight.

We pray for moms who have lost children.

Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We pray for mothers who aborted their children.

Grant them healing and peace.

We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.

We pray for adoptive mothers.

Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.

We pray for girls and women who think about being moms.

Grant them wisdom and discernment.

We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

We pray for those people present who are grieving the loss of their mother in the past year.

Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection

SCRIPTURE VERSES TO CELEBRATE WOMEN

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice." – Proverbs 23:22-25

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." – Galatians 5:22-23

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." – Exodus 20:12

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'" – Proverbs 31:28-31

"Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father." – Leviticus 19:3

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." – Proverbs 31:25-28

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." – 3 John 1:4

"When God Created Mothers" by Erma Bombeck

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said. "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order?" She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said. "Six pairs of hands.... no way."

It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. God nodded.

One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

God," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Get some rest tomorrow...."

I can't," said God, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

But tough!" said God excitedly. "You can imagine what this mother can do or endure."

Can it think?"

Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

What's it for?"

It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

You are a genius," said the angel.

PEGGY'S REFLECTION....

This is a beautiful reflection of mothers.

I do want to add a few things that I have been thinking about this week. Most of us out there we're blessed with an amazing moms, but in saying that, there are children in this world and maybe children that you knew growing up or maybe your own mother that wasn't compassionate and loving and understanding.

But I know probably when you think back you think of the people that came into your life or their lives to help them to grow, to help them to know what a mom was really like. It might have been the lady next door, might have been an aunt or grandparent or Sunday school teacher or a school teacher or a foster mom; there are a lot of amazing women out there that have played roles in children's and young people's lives that nurtured them to become who they have become today.

Yes, when God created the woman, he had a plan in mind. That her heart, mind, and soul where are all part of a creation of someone who love, care, understand, think and have compassion for all aspects of life for her children and for all the children, young people and adults she would encounter in her lifetime.

Today I would like to celebrate all the women of my congregations. You know as I look back over the last 13 years, I have ministered with you, I have seen such a diversity in these congregations. By diversity, I mean, so much deep faith and devotion. The women within these churches have so much to offer because God calls all of you to be caring, compassionate and understanding. To act like Jesus in your actions of kindness, teaching and being faithful to God.

My father always said experience is the best teacher and there is so much experience within the walls of these churches, when I think about all of the women of congregation and all your experiences, I salute you and thank you for what you bring to your church and the faith that you share. When I speak of diversity, I think of all of all the fields of work and the experience you bring has made our church and congregations what they are today. I would like to thank ... all of those in the medical field, to those in the Justice and criminal system, to the managers and business owners, to the secretaries and administrators and finance advisers, those who work in a grocery stores or hardware stores, to our postal workers, to our truck drivers, to our factory workers, our homemakers, to our teachers, our caregivers, our moms, our foster

moms, those who can paint, those who can quilt and sew, those who can bake and can, those who teach music and to all those that I have not named. These are the women that we celebrate today and why do we celebrate these women because these women in everything they do have brought their faith to the table. But, I'm not forgetting about the men in our congregation because the diversity of the men have also with their faith has built the foundation of these churches. But today we celebrate the women in our lives. Each one of us has had that special woman who raised us and taught usSo I say to all of you don't forget if you still have the opportunity to thank those in your lives that have inspired you, those women who made you who you are and instilled the faith that you have within your soul... and if they're in heaven now you know a simple say a prayer of thanks to them they will hear you.

For each step of the Journey of Our Lives, God puts people in our paths to guide us and teach us to have faith. Thanks to all the moms who gave us life and taught us to be Who We Are and to keep stepping forward even in toughest times of our lives. Amen

HYMN: I'll Be A Sunbeam for Jesus

1. Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for Him each day;
In ev'ry way try to please Him,
At home, at school, at play.

Chorus:

A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.

2. Jesus wants me to be loving,
And kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy
His little one can be. [Chorus]

3. I will ask Jesus to help me

To keep my heart from sin,
Ever reflecting His goodness,

And always shine for Him. [Chorus]

4. I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus;
I can if I but try;
Serving Him moment by moment,
Then live with Him on high. [Chorus]

FAITHFUL AND TRUE: A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

God of grace, thank you for the gift of motherhood:
for the joy of giving birth, for the delight of loving a child,
for the unfolding of a relationship over time.
From mothers cradling babies, to adults caregiving for aging parents,
the relationship of mother and child is a gift from you!
Thank you for all who mother us,
biological or adoptive mothers, caregivers, relatives and friends;
women who have been there for us, who have made us who we are.
Thank you, God, that even though mothers may fail us, you never fail us
and that you mother us through your love.
We are not perfect people, and in our intimate relationships, we are
imperfect.
For all the ways we have as mothers, disappointed or failed our children,
forgive us.
For all the ways we have as children, disappointed or failed our mothers,
forgive us.
Give us the grace to say, "I'm sorry," and the wisdom to make amends.
For mothers today we ask for patience, to allow our children to be
children;
we ask for vision to see the long view, and the impact small parenting
choices can make, we ask for self-control, so that we may model
gracefulness in stressful situations.
Above all these we ask for love, pressed down, shaken together, running
over!
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who knew the love of a mother,
faithful and true to the end, Amen.

HYMN: The Ninety and Nine

There were ninety and nine that safely lay
 In the shelter of the fold;
 But one was out on the hills away,
 Far off from the gates of gold.
 Away on the mountains wild and bare;
 Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

“Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine;
 Are they not enough for Thee?”
 But the Shepherd made answer: “This of Mine
 Has wandered away from Me.
 And although the road be rough and steep,
 I go to the desert to find My sheep.”

But none of the ransomed ever knew
 How deep were the waters crossed;
 Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through
 Ere He found His sheep that was lost.
 Out in the desert He heard its cry;
 'Twas sick and helpless and ready to die.

“Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way,
 That mark out the mountain's track?”
 “They were shed for one who had gone astray
 Ere the Shepherd could bring him back.”
 “Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn?”
 “They're pierced tonight by many a thorn.”

And all through the mountains, thunder-riv'n,
 And up from the rocky steep,
 There arose a glad cry to the gate of heav'n,
 “Rejoice! I have found My sheep!”
 And the angels echoed around the throne,
 “Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!”

BENEDICTION

Go into your week,
 knowing that you are embraced by the love of God;
 a love that is sweeter and more tender
 than any you have ever known.

Please note that the hymns today have been selected by some of the ladies of our congregations. These hymns have fond memories for them.

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 Have you ever noticed how in the scriptures men are always going up
 into the mountains to commune with the Lord?

Yet in the scriptures we hardly ever hear of women going to the
 mountains, and we know why — right?

Because the women were too busy keeping life going; they couldn't
 abandon babies, meals, homes, fires, gardens, and a thousand
 responsibilities to make the climb into the mountains!

I was talking to a friend the other day, saying that as modern woman
 I feel like I'm never “free” enough from my responsibilities, never in a
 quiet enough, or holy enough spot to have the type of communion I want
 with God.

Her response floored me, “That is why God comes to women. Men have
 to climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women where
 ever they are.”

I have been pondering on her words for weeks and have searched my
 scriptures to see that what she said is true. God does indeed come to
 women where they are, when they are doing their ordinary, everyday
 work.

He meets them at the wells where they draw water for their families,
 in their homes, in their kitchens, in their gardens.

He comes to them as they sit beside sickbeds, as they give birth, care for the elderly, and perform necessary mourning and burial rites.

Even at the empty tomb, Mary was the first to witness Christ's resurrection, She was there because she was doing the womanly chore of properly preparing Christ's body for burial.

In these seemingly mundane and ordinary tasks, these women of the scriptures found themselves face to face with divinity.

So if — like me — you ever start to bemoan the fact that you don't have as much time to spend in the mountains with God as you would like. Remember, God comes to women. He knows where we are and the burdens we carry. He sees us, and if we open our eyes and our hearts we will see Him, even in the most ordinary places and in the most ordinary things. He lives.

