

MINISTER'S MINUTE

Christian Family Sunday/Mother's Day

Morning Prayer

God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us.

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you. We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends. We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths. We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.

Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

(Adapted from prayer offered by Jackie Harper. United Church of Canada)



Leslie Pipes 2020

There is one part of Psalm 31 that speaks to me. After reading it over, I underlined “Since you are my rock and my fortress”, which indicates protection and trust. When you think of a rock, you might think of a solid piece of earth. Especially in this life, we need people around us who are solid: rock solid for us. When you think of a fortress or cave, you might think of a place to hide or seek refuge. We need people who will protect us in difficult times.

David calls out to God in this Psalm with an understanding that he is already protected. He does not question God and seems to be confident in God protecting and nurturing his life. And for us? Especially after moments of trouble, chaos, emotion, distress and panic, we need those who will be a rock: those who will hold us steady and help us throughout our lives. It may be possible that Psalm 31 was written after David had gone through something that was

Sunday Scripture

Acts 7:55–60
Stephen is stoned.

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
(VU p. 758 Parts One and Three)
My times are in your hands.

1 Peter 2:2–10
A chosen race, a royal priesthood, living stones.

John 14:1–14
I am the way, the truth, the life.

Thank you to the Sunday School and friends who helped make the slideshow for Mother's Day this past Sunday!

not the easiest for him. Perhaps there was a mistake made or feelings hurt enough that it made him call out for God.

Recall the words of Jesus who also called on God when he was nailed to the cross. He said, “You are my strength, into your hands I commit my Spirit.” And then he died. These words echo the words of David when he wrote, “You are my rock and my fortress”. So, with this in mind, we are asked to call to God like David did. With these words, we are also reminded of those whom we call on when we are in moments of real struggle. Sometimes the person we call on could be our mother, father, guardian or grandparent. It could also be a friend. Hopefully we can think of one person who has been there for us even through our troubles and mistakes.

With this in mind, we must remember to be a rock for others as well. We can show mothering, nurturing, and protecting attitudes to teach and help others. God constantly nurtures us by blessing us with new life, Springtime, children, dreams and inspiration. God promises us that we are loved, so as we rejoice, we share that strength.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

A Mother's Day Tribute:

Adapted by Emma Pipes, created by Amy Young
 (<http://messymiddle.com>)

Prayer: God we ask for your grace and wisdom as we consider those who mother, those who nurture, teach and love. Help us remember the wide spectrum of mothering that is present in your world. We offer our symbols in unity as we name aloud the many.

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you and pray for safety and calm on your new journey.

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you and

weep that such pain is felt.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains – we appreciate you and smile at the courage you show.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.

To those of you who fight and argue with your loved ones and children- we are sorry for the words that hurt and hope you know you are still loved.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fear, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things or embarrass you. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we really need you and thank you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you and dream of a world with such closeness.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we sit with you and contemplate how you must feel.

To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you and ask you to share stories with us to keep the memories alive.

To those who experienced abuse and disappointment at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience and we sit with you through the pain.

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 have ended a pregnancy through abortion - we remember you on this day, lament any difficulty you went through and respect your choice.

To the land protectors and women who gather water on stolen land to fight for your lives, we stand with you.

To those who once dreamed of mothering your own children - we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

To those who step-parent - we walk with you on these complex paths and ask for you to keep going.

To those who offer advice, guidance and mentorship to others, we thank you for your voice of justice, strength and wisdom.

To those who envisioned one day giving love to grandchildren, if that dream is not to be - we grieve with you, we still need your love.

To those who have struggled to take care of your families in the midst of pandemic and panic - we are with you in the struggle.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you to watch another chapter unfold.

To those who placed children up for adoption – we recognize you for your selflessness, your choice and remember how you may always hold that child in your heart

To those who are bursting with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you a new chance to experience radical love.

This Mother's Day, whatever experience you have, whatever understanding you know, we are with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have need for real love in our midst. We remember you!

Sunday Fun: Can you find Gwen the Wonder Dog

