

## WORSHIP SERVICE

**MAY 8, 2022**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MOTHERS' DAY**

### **RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST PEOPLE**

*We recognize that the first people on the land that we gather on are the Gabrieleño Tangva people. With humility, we accept the responsibility of caring for the land.*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**JANE**

*The Spirit of God calls us from many places; some come from busy homes with many people, and some live alone, but we are all a part of the family. This week has been different for each of us; some of us have had happy news, and we want to celebrate, and some of us have faced grief and need to cry. We are all members of God's family. Yet we all come to this same place; all of us seeking God's presence in our lives, all of us seeking God's presence with each other. Together we become God's family. Amen.*

### **WELCOME**

**JOHN**

*You Are Welcome!*

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome here:*

***If you are young or old, you are welcome.***

*If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,  
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.*

***If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.***

*If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,*

*If you are transgender, you are welcome.*

***If you identify as a man, woman, or gender non-conforming, you are welcome.***

*If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.*

***If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.***

*If you are sick or well, you are welcome.*

***If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.***

*If you believe in God some of the time,  
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

***You are welcome here!***

***Come with your gifts, your pains, and hopes, your fears.***

*Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.*

***Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.***

*Come with a mind ready to engage and a heart open to discern.*

***Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to***

***love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seeks justice,  
create peace, and practice compassion***

...

***You are welcome here***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**SUNNY/SARAH**

*One: Jesus welcomes all of us to worship*

***All: Jesus said, "Come!"***

*One: 모든 엄마와 아이들에게*

*(To all mothers and children)*

***All: He said, "Come!"***

*One: A tous les sans mère et sans enfant,*

*(To all motherless and the childless,)*

***All: He said, "Come!"***

*One: A todas las que anhelan ser madres*

*(To all who long to be mothers)*

***All: He said, "Come!"***

*One: Sa lahat na nagpapagal at nabibigatan sa pasanin,*

*(To all who labor and are heavy laden,)*

**All: He said, "Come!"**

**One:** 致所有需要休息的人,  
(To all who needed rest,)

**All: He said, "Come!"**

**One:** उसने कहा, "मेरा जूआ अपने ऊपर ले लो  
(He said, "Take my yoke upon you)

**All: And learn from me**

**One:** For I am gentle and humble of heart

**All: And you will find rest for your souls. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO PRAYER

BONNIE

*God's divine love is all around us; it is manifested in the love of mothers and those who show us a mother's love. Let us turn to God and admit our desire to live more in that love. Let us pray together as the children of God. First in silence...*

## PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

*Mother God, your life pulses in each of our hearts, and your love permeates our lives. Your mother-like care sustains us in each moment, and your compassion guides us in each situation. When we fall, you lift us; when we fail, you restore us; when we are wounded, you nurse us; when we grieve, you weep with us.*

*But we have failed to love as you do; we have abused and misused ourselves and others; we have filled our minds with selfish dreams and violent plans; we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion; we have forgotten your Spirit, and distorted your image within us.*

*As a mother who guides her children, we ask you to guide us. As a mother forgives her children who hurt her, we ask you to forgive us. As a mother calls her children to be reconciled with their siblings, we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another. As a mother asks her children to live in peace, we ask you to help us live as people of peace and serenity. Amen.*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

*God's love is as mysterious as a mother's love. God's grace is as gentle as the warm embrace of a mother's love. Let us find our peace in God's love and rejoice in God's love for us. We are unconditionally forgiven, we are unconditionally loved, and we are unconditionally accepted. Amen.*

*As the loved people of God, I now invite you to greet those around you. Those on Zoom are invited to hug themselves with the love of God.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**LOVE YOU MORE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**MARIKA**

*O Wisdom Divine, just as you inspired the mothers of our faith, grant us your knowledge and discernment so that we can learn how to be clever in our compassion and courageous in our faith. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE**

**2 KINGS 4:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha saying, "Your servant my husband is dead—you know that your servant feared ADONAI. Now the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."

<sup>2</sup> "What should I do for you?" Elisha asked her. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?"

She replied, "Your handmaid has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

<sup>3</sup> Then he said, "Go borrow for yourself vessels from all your neighbors—empty jars—not just a few. <sup>4</sup> Then go inside and shut the door behind you and behind your sons, and pour into all those vessels, setting aside what is full."

<sup>5</sup> So she left him and shut the door behind her and behind her sons. They kept bringing the vessels to her and she kept pouring. <sup>6</sup> When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

But he said to her, "There isn't another vessel." So the oil stopped.

<sup>7</sup> Then she came and told the man of God. So he said, "Go sell the oil and pay your debt, then you and your sons can live on the rest."

This morning’s response to God’s Word is a Litany to celebrate Mothering, in all its forms. It comes from Amy Young’s *The Messy Middle* blog.

### A Litany for Mothers

To those who gave birth this year to their first child

—**we celebrate with you**

To those who lost a child this year

—**we mourn with you**

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains

—**we appreciate you**

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away

—**we mourn with you**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment

—**we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don’t mean to make this harder than it is.**

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms

—**we need you**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children

—**we celebrate with you**

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children

—**we sit with you**

To those who lost their mothers this year

**—we grieve with you**

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother

**—we acknowledge your experience**

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 will have emptier nests in the upcoming year

**—we grieve and rejoice with you**

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising

**—we anticipate with you**

This Mother's Day, we walk with you.

**Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.**

**We remember you. Amen.**

**SONG OF FAITH**

**HYMN OF ILUVATAR**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(DO NOT PUT THIS ON THE SLIDES)*

**SUNNY/SHINHWA**

Mother God, on this day, set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for all 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.**

God, we thank you for the mothers. We remember the women who have inspired us by their motherly examples as they modeled for all the rest of us what it means to love, give comfort, and care. Bless them on this special day. Amen.

**PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US**

**SUNNY**

*Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.*

Eternal Spirit,  
Source of all that is and ever shall be,  
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,  
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples,  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth  
Until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.  
May we find the food that we need for today,  
And for the hurts we cause one another  
May we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive.  
In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;  
When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure.  
May you reign in the power of human love,  
Now and forever.  
Amen.

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**CLOSING SONG**

**LET US PUT ON THE CLOTHES OF CHRIST**

**BENEDICTION**