



8:30AM | May 14, 2023 | Mother's Day

*You are invited to join the pastor, on the right side of the altar,
for a time of prayer before we begin worship this morning.*

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Judi Wilkinson, piano

Nettleton/John Eby

WELCOME AND INVITATION

HYMN

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

UMH #480

CALL TO WORSHIP | LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms:

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...." (Isa. 66:13)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us.

He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isa. 49:15)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace,

trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

"But I have stilled and quietened my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me." (Ps. 131:2)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us,

like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." (Matt. 23:37)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

"...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children." (1 Thess. 2:7)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER

- List the things you are thankful for and the way your mother has blessed you.
- List places where you need healing or forgiveness is needed.
- Name a mother who especially needs prayers right now.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

A READING FOR MOTHER'S DAY

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper--not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness - not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child.

As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love.

- Author Unknown

HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH #384

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 11:27-28

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

DOXOLOGY

MESSAGE

Jesus The Teacher: Finding Family

Rev. Kim Kinsey

GIVING TALK AND OFFERING

Tithes & offerings can be mailed to the church office. (524 Thunderbird Dr.)

You may also give electronically on our website at www.westernhillsep.org/donate

HYMN

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

TFWS #2146

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us know that you worshipped with us today: www.westernhillsep.org/attendance/
Find out what is coming up at Western Hills UMC: www.westernhillsep.org/happening-now/

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Dr. Aina Olonade, organ

You are invited to sit and listen to the postlude.

LAY READER: Norm Amundson

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