

May 11 Worship
Mother's Day
Greeters-Linda Mikkola, Gayanne Boyer
Reader- Gary Fleming

Announcements/Joys-

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.” Exodus 20:12*

Opening Scripture- Acts 9:36-43(page 956)

Opening Chorus- 466- Thank You Lord

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: From every nation, in every language, we cry out:

People: “Salvation belongs to our God, and to the Lamb!”

Leader: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving!

People: Honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

Leader: Amen!

People: Amen!

Hymn- 76- For The Beauty Of The Earth

Unison Prayer- God with a mother’s heart, you gather us as your children. You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace. When we hurt your arms enfold us. When we are afraid your wings protect us. When we are hungry you feed us with the bread of life. God with a mother’s heart, your love surrounds and supports us, in good times and in tough, in the midst of joy and pain, always and everywhere. You will never leave nor abandon us. God eternal and loving one, God with a mother’s heart, we thank you this day, for being part of your family. We pray as Jesus taught, saying...*Lord's Prayer*...

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Psalm 23(page 476)

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- John 10:22-30(page 934)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 570- Happy The Home When God Is There

Message

“Mother's Day 2025”

Praise God for Mother! Every year since 1907, there has been an annual observance honoring mothers that we call “Mother's Day”. The origins of this special day goes back to the years before the Civil War when Ann Reeves Jarvis began a campaign to promote women's rights and activism. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Jarvis organized what she called, “Mother's Day Work Clubs” to assist in educating women in the poverty- stricken West Virginia towns and communities. The purpose of these clubs was to educate women in proper sanitary methods, mainly because of the extremely high infant mortality rate in the Appalachian region. During the war, she organized “Women's Brigades” to help each other care for families who had suffered hardship due to the conflict without regard to which side they fought for. After the war, she proposed the idea of a “Mother's Friendship Day” to promote peace between former Union and Confederate families.

Julia Ward Howe of Boston, the author and poet who wrote the Civil War Anthem, “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” around 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for a “Mother's Day for Peace” dedicated to the celebration of peace and the eradication of war. As expressed in what is called her “Mother's Day Proclamation” from 1870, Howe felt that mothers should gather to prevent the cruelty of war and the waste of life since mothers of mankind alone bear and know the cost. Howe's version of Mother's Day was held in Boston and other locations for about 30 years, but died a quick death in the years preceding World War I. Nothing new happened in this department until 1907, when Miss Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia took up the banner.

Anna M. Jarvis was the daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis who passed away in 1905. Anna wished to memorialize her mother's efforts to build up motherhood and began a campaign to designate a special day honoring mothers. Miss Anna Jarvis from Philadelphia wished to memorialize her mother's life and started campaigning for a national day to honor all mothers. “I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life,” Ann Jarvis once said. “She is entitled to it.” Anna's ideas were less about public service and more about simply honoring the role of motherhood and the sacrifices made in the home. She bombarded public figures and various civic organizations with telegrams, letters, and in-person discussions. She addressed groups large and small. At her own expense, she wrote, printed, and distributed booklets extolling her idea. In May of 1907, Anna memorialized her mother's lifelong activism with a memorial service held at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna's mother had taught. The following year, on May 10, a Mother's Day service was held at that same church to acknowledge all mothers. Thus was born the idea that the second Sunday in May, be set aside to honor every mother, whether living or deceased. Her efforts came to the attention of the mayor of Philadelphia, who proclaimed a local Mother's Day. From the local level, she went on to Washington, D.C. The politicians there knew a good thing when they saw it and were quick to lend verbal support.

While West Virginia was the first state to officially adopt the holiday, others followed suit. Proclamation of the day by the various states led Representative J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama and Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas to present a joint resolution to Congress that Mother's

Day be observed nationwide. The resolution was passed by both houses. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called "Mother's Day," dedicated "to the best mother in the world, your mother." For the first few years, the day was observed as a legal holiday, but in absolute simplicity and reverence, church services were held in honor of all mothers, living and dead. According to many sources, Anna simply wanted to honor her mother, claiming that her mother was the originator of the real Mother's Day. As the holiday went mainstream, she was dismayed to see it become more commercialized with the sending of greeting cards and flowers; she also didn't even want the holiday promoted by women's organizations, charitable foundations, or public health reformers to raise money, somewhat ironic considering her mother's public health mission. In 1948, Anna Jarvis died in a sanitarium in a state of dementia.

Perhaps Anna's concerns were valid. These special days honoring Mother's, Father's, Grandparents, and anyone else we can think of, have become extremely commercialized. Would anyone care to venture a guess as to how much money will be spent on Mother's Day, this year, in the United States? 34.1 billion, with a B, which averages out to \$249.04 per person. This was not what Anna's idea was all about.

I would like to recite a poem, written by Shel Silverstein, a writer of some very thought provoking pieces that you may, or may not, have heard about. This one is called; "Ma and God."

God gave us fingers--Ma says, "Use your fork."

God gave us voices--Ma says, "Don't scream."

Ma says eat broccoli, cereal and carrots. But God gave us a taste for maple ice cream.

God gave us fingers--Ma says, "Use your hanky."

God gave us puddles--Ma says, "Don't splash."

Ma says, "Be quiet, your father is sleeping." But God gave us garbage can covers to crash.

God gave us fingers--Ma says, "Put your gloves on."

God gave us raindrops--Ma says, "Don't get wet."

Ma says be careful, and don't get too near to those strange lovely dogs that God gave us to pet.

God gave us fingers--Ma says, "Go wash 'em."

But God gave us coal bins and nice dirty bodies.

And I ain't too smart, but there's one thing for certain-- Either Ma's wrong or else God is.

Now, I am not going to go into the question of whether Ma or God are right, but consider this. God gave us our mothers and gave us a command. "Honor your Mother." If we say that mother has more say than God it may be because God gave her the wisdom to guide us here and now. God will take care of what comes next.

On this day, when we do what we should be doing all year round, honor your mother. Yes, there are those who may have not lived up to the standards of motherhood, but they still deserve a prayer and we are obligated to love and honor those who gave us life. Praise Be to God. Amen

Prayers of People/Prayer-Loving God, it is you who gave life and breath to everyone in our world, and in you alone can we find life, breath and meaning for ourselves and our world. For those who have been blessed with an awareness of your mothering care, who have looked to you for guidance and nurture, we give you thanks, and we pray that you would unite us within your family to be a nurturing influence on others, that they too may enjoy life within your

family. For those who hunger and thirst, who are lost and alone, who yearn to be given new direction, new hope and new life, we pray that you would care for them through us. Let us be seen and known as your faithful children in this community of faith to which you have given birth. Help us to uphold your name by acting, as Jesus our brother, in faithfulness and trust in you. Gather us, Lord, as we lift to you the special needs we bring to this day, in silence. Under the shadow of your wings we find our refuge. In your gentle care we find our home. And in your living Spirit we are united this day, Lord, as we offer to you our prayers in the name of your holy Child, Jesus, the risen Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 333- Now Thank We All Our God

Benediction- May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.