

Order of service
Sunday, May 10, 2020

Hymn: When mothers of Salem
(Key of G)

1

When mothers of Salem
their children brought to Jesus,
The stern disciples drove them back
and bade them to depart:
But Jesus saw them ere they fled
and sweetly smiled and kindly said,
“Suffer little children to come unto Me.”

2

“For I will receive them
and fold them to My bosom:
I’ll be a shepherd to these lambs,
O drive them not away;
For if their hearts to Me they give,
they shall with Me in glory live:
Suffer little children to come unto Me.”

3

How kind was our Savior
to bid these children welcome!
But there are many thousands
who have never heard His Name;
The Bible they have never read,
they know not that the Savior said,
“Suffer little children to come unto Me.”

4

O soon may the people
of every tribe and nation
Fulfill Thy blessed Word and
cast their idols all away!
O shine upon them from above
and show Thyself a God of love,
Teach the little children to come unto Thee!

Welcome & call to worship

Opening prayer & Lord's Prayer song

~ submitted by Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer, Senior Pastor at [First Baptist Church](#) in Martinsville, VA.

A prayer of gratitude for a physically-distant Mother's Day

For all the mothers who are still with us,
and for those who have gone to be with Jesus,
we give thanks today.

For all those who mothered us,
some in addition to our own mothers,
some in place of absent mothers,
we recognize you and give thanks for you.

For all women who have been figures of grace and love in our lives,
your example has been meaningful to us.

During this time of physical distance,
we wish we could be nearer to our mothers (and our children to us!).
We pray that this day brings phone calls and cards,
love and light, your way,
mothers and mothering women. We love you!
Amen.

Hymn: Mothers love us

(Tune: Jesus Loves Me, key of D)

1

Mothers love us, this is true,
You just watch them, you'll know too.
See them wipe away our tears,
Hold our hands to calm our fears.

Yes, mothers love us; Yes, mother's love us
Yes, mothers love us, we know that this is true.

2

Mother's love us without praise,
They don't wait for special days.
They just love us ev'ry hour
Teach us faith in God's great power.

A time for all God's children

Hymn: Motherhood, sublime eternal

(Tune: In the bulb, key of G)

1

Motherhood, sublime, eternal,
lives in God's great heart of Love;
Ever holds us, safe enfolds us,
underneath, around, above;
Patient, tender, kind, forgiving,
though in devious paths we roam;
Gently chides us, ever guides us,
and all-loving, leads us home

2

Ev'ry wrong will sure be righted;
ev'ry evil swept away;
Truth upspringing, justice bringing,
ushers in the brighter day
Mother calls her earthly children,
loves them, lifts them when they fall;
Striving, calling, fainting, falling,
Motherlove enfolds them all

3

God is love, and love forever
in the motherheart is blest;
Lives the longest, lifts the strongest,
far outreaching all the rest;
Not by might, and not by wisdom
comes our lifting from the sod:
Love's pure glory tells the story
In the motherheart of God

This hymn, written by Rev. J. S. Cutler, has its roots in the Mother-God theology of the 14th century English mystic Dame Julian of Norwich. It was included in the 1941 Baptist/Disciples of Christ hymnal "Christian worship". It's listed as "for Mother's Day" and puts an intriguing theological spin on that commercial holiday. It is interesting to note that folks in some Episcopal (Anglican) churches seem to groove on "mothering Father" (taking "mothering" as a better equivalent of "merciful" in Hebrew, which is from the root "womb").

It all means something.

Scripture: I Peter 1: 17-23 New Living Translation

...remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favourites.
He will judge or reward you according to what you do.

So you must live in reverent fear of him
during your time here as “temporary residents.”

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you
from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors.

And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.

It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

God chose him as your ransom long before the world began,
but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

Through Christ you have come to trust in God.

And you have placed your faith and hope in God
because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth,
so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters.

Love each other deeply with all your heart.

For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end.

Your new life will last forever
because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

May God bless to our understanding this reading of his holy word. Amen.

Hymn: How firm a foundation - Key of G

Isaiah 43: 1-4

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes,
 and honored, and I love you

1

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

3

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

4

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”

5

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes,
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never no, never no, never forsake.

Sermon

Community gifts: Evelyn Highland Dancing

Prayers of the people

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!
Thank God for mothers!

Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.
Thank God for my mother!

For those women who have joined God in Heaven
and whom we miss dearly here on earth.
Thank God for the mothers of the past.

For every woman who is working day and night to rear her children right
now.
Thank God for the mothers of today.

For all the women who are expecting but aren't quite mothers yet!
Thank God for soon-to-be-mothers.

For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

For those women who have lost a child and must carry on.

Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own,

but chose instead to mother everyone else.

Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

We thank you, Lord, for the women
who have influenced our lives
in so many ways. We pray that we will
honor them in everything we do. Amen.

Benediction

Song: Lean on me

(Key of D)

Isaiah 40: 31

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

I

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain

We all have sorrow

But if we are wise

We know that there's always tomorrow

Refrain

Lean on me, when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on

For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

2

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show

Refrain

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

3

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road I'll share your load
If you just call me (call me) I...