

Mother's Day Prayer*

God of life and love, we give you thanks for this new day. We give you thanks for the rain and restorative power it has to cleanse and nourish your creation. We're grateful, O God, for all the ways your presence is made known to us – in great and small ways – whereby we are reminded of your steadfast love for us and for all people.

On this day of celebrating your love, we give you thanks for those who have given us life. Though we may call you "Father," let us not forget how often mothers embody your steadfast and relentless love. We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. For mothers who have joined you in heaven and whom we miss dearly this day, we give you thanks.

For mothers who work day and night to raise and care for their children, we give you thanks. We also remember those mothers who labor at this task alone. May we, your church, remember to uphold all families through our life together.

For mothers who have lost a child to death and must carry on, we ask for your mercy. May we all sustain these mothers in their time of need and answer your call to reach out to them in compassion and love. For women who are new mothers and those who are expecting children but are not quite mothers yet, we praise you, O God, for the joy and anticipation of new life. Grant that we never forget our duty to uphold these growing families – that in our shared life together, we all may hear the call to be your disciples in this world.

For all of the women who longed for – but never had – children of their own, we give you thanks. These women have been living examples of your love and grace as they have answered the call to nurture and care for others.

We also pray, O God, for the mothers who have failed to live up to the call of motherhood. We believe you are a God of healing, and we remember that we all stand in the need of your grace. Where we cannot forgive, Lord, give us strength.

We stand in solidarity this day, O God, with mothers around the world who have watched their children die of hunger, every mother who has been victim of abuse, every woman who stands against a world that massacres her children in the name of war and dares to rename them "collateral damage."

We lift to you the spirits of all mothers around the world – even those mothers we will never know personally. We praise your name and lift all mothers, those we have mentioned and those left unmentioned, as we join together in the prayer you taught all of your children in all times and in all places to pray. Let us join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

This pastoral prayer was shared on Mother's Day 2012 during worship at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia. The prayer combines original and borrowed lines from resources offered through Discipleship Resources online. The Rev. Ben Gosden wrote and compiled it. Used with permission.