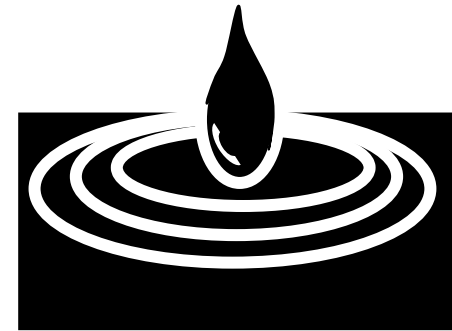


Prayer
*Kathlen
Rolenz*

Spirit of life,
You've been a father and mother to us all
We enter into this time of silence and reflection
With mixed emotions.
This is mother's day--a day set aside to honor, celebrate, and in some cases, simply to reflect on those women who gave us birth. Some of us come to this day with joy,
With strong and tender feelings
for the women who have earned the right to be called "mother."
They not only gave us our lives, they are responsible for shaping our spirit.
They have fed us, played with us, nurtured us, listened to us.
They have given unselfishly for us. They have loved us unconditionally.
If our mothers are still living, we make the extra effort to stay in touch,
And find ways to give back a portion of the love which we have so abundantly received.
If our mothers have died, we take time to cherish our memories of them
Memories which may flood our eyes with bittersweet tears of longing.
We miss her...and we feel that loss even more acutely on this day, While also being grateful for her strength, her wisdom and her beauty--
And the gifts of life which she has passed onto us.
For others, this day is not a time for celebration,
But rather, a time for reflection.
Perhaps we cannot bring ourselves to buy that Hallmark card, The ones that waxes poetically about a mother's love, or her presence in our lives.
Rather, we may feel her absence, through death or indifference. We may have complicated, difficult, unhappy associations with "mother."
Instead, may we use this time to reflect on those who have mothered us.
The women in our lives who have been shown their love for us, Whether through motherhood or mentoring,
Those tough, gentle, truth-telling, loving, wise, whimsical women
Who have served as our teachers, our mentors, our guides, our friends.

Prayer
Victor-
ia
Wein-
stein



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Everyone Has a Mother

We reflect in thanksgiving this day for all those whose lives have nurtured ours.
The life-giving ones
Who heal with their presence
Who listen in sympathy
Who give wise advice ... but only when asked for it.
We are grateful for all those who have mothered us
Who have held us gently in times of sorrow
Who celebrated with us our triumphs -- no matter how small
Who noticed when we changed and grew,
who praised us for taking risks
who took genuine pride in our success,
and who expressed genuine compassion when we did not succeed.
On this day that honors Mothers
let us honor all mothers
men and women alike
who from somewhere in their being
have freely and wholeheartedly given life, and sustenance, and vision to us.
Dear God, Mother-Father of us all,
grant us life-giving ways
strength for birthing,
and a nurturing spirit
that we may take attentive care of our world,
our communities, and those precious beings
entrusted to us by biology, or by destiny, or by friendship, fellowship or fate.
Give us the heart of a mother today. Amen

Preliminaries Get a volunteer to light the chalice and two readers, one for the opening words and one to begin the silence. Pass bowl of quotations. Announce upcoming church events.

**Opening /
Chalice
Lighting**
*-Elizabeth M.
McMaster*
*We light our flaming chalice
To illuminate the world we seek.
In the search for truth, may we be just;
In the search for justice, may we be loving;
And, in loving, may we find peace.*

Check-in Take a minute or two to share one high point or one low point of the time since we last met

Reading *Read around the circle the prayer on the back of the order of worship*

**Sitting in
Silence –**
*Kathleen
Rolenz*
Sit with eyes closed after usual signal introduction. One person reads this introduction.

And at this Mothers Day time,
May we remember the Great Mother that sustains us,
Whose body is the very substance of our existence
The very ground we walk upon,
The very source of our being.

From whatever place of the spirit we come this morning,
Let us once again, enter into a time of silence,
Knowing that it is in silence, where great things fashion themselves.

**Sharing/
Deep
Listening**

Discussion This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Singing
*Bring Many names
- Hymn #23*
Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God:
Hail and hosanna, bring many names.

Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation genius at play:
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging ev'ry child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving tell we're reconciled:
hail and hosanna, warm father God!

**Closing/
Extinguishing
Chalice**
*- Victoria
Weinstein*

Stand and link arms:

Dear God, Mother-Father of us all,
grant us life-giving ways
strength for birthing,
and a nurturing spirit
that we may take attentive care of our world,
our communities, and those precious beings
entrusted to us by biology, or by destiny, or by friendship,
fellowship or fate.
Give us the heart of a mother today. Amen