

***Mother's Day Responsive Reading***

By Jann Aldredge-Clanton\*, USA

<http://worshipwords.co.uk/mothering-sunday/>

**Leader:** In the beginning our Divine Mother gave birth to the universe.

**All:** She gave birth to light. And She said, "That's good!"

**Leader:** God gave birth to the earth, and She saw that it was good.

**All:** She gave birth to the grass and trees and plants of all kinds and said, "That's good!"

**Leader:** Our Mother gave birth to all the fish, both large and small, that swim in the oceans and to all the winged birds that fly above the earth. And She said, "They are good!"

**All:** God gave birth to the cattle and to all kinds of animals, and She saw how good they are.

**Leader:** Then our Divine Mother gave birth to female and male human beings. And She blessed female and male human beings with responsibility for the earth and all the other living beings that She had birthed.

**All:** We come to celebrate all these gifts from our Divine Mother.

**Leader:** We come to learn again what it means to be entrusted with these gifts.

**All:** We join together with our Mother and with one another in giving birth to beauty, peace, and kindness. We join Her and one another in nurturing the earth and all living beings.

**Leader:** Our Mother gives us all power to give birth and to nurture life.

**All:** God, our Mother, you continually give life to us. Nourish us and teach us to become all you created us to be in your divine image. Help us to receive your power and love so that others may draw life from us. May we join you in giving birth to new life and in nurturing creation. So be it!

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\*Jann Aldridge-Clanton's passion is gender inclusivity in the realms of worship, religion and faith expression. Her website includes an annotated list of others concerned with the importance of inclusive language in liturgy, prayer and church life. She is active in the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America  
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