



**Open Table
Mothering Sunday Service
Welcome**

Coffee & Chat

- When you hear the word ‘mothering’ of whom do you think? Why?
- Who has been nurturing and caring for you in your life? Explain.
- To whom do you offer nurture and care, like a mother? In what ways?

Gathering

All: We are here. We are who we are.

Each person: ‘I am here.’ or ‘I am who I am’ or both.

All: You are who you are, created by God, our loving Mother and Father.

Sharing a greeting of peace

Hearing the Word *Psalm 107:21-22*

Singing

Mother’s Day Responsive Reading, by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

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!

Prayers of approach, by Cara Heafey

Conversations

- When God is described as ‘Mother,’ how do you feel?
- What words or names do you feel most comfortable using when you talk to God? or when you describe God?
- How do you relate to God as your creator? Mother? Guide in life?

A Mothering Sunday Litany: Women in the Bible

Conversations: going deeper

- With which of these Biblical figures do you identify?
- What are your experiences of ‘mothering’, of nurturing and caring for others?
- When has God, like a mother, intervened in your life to offer the nurture and care you have needed?
- To whom, might God be calling you to reach out with a nurturing and caring spirit?

Sharing & Caring – Bringing light into our world

A Prayer for Mothers

Singing

Quiet reflection followed by Our Lord’s Prayer

Communion feast

Singing

Closing Prayer