

Adapted from a prayer on the PCUSA website for Mother's Day

Eternal God, on this day we lift up mothers to you. Scripture has prepared us to recognize that by your grace, mothering takes many forms. We pray for mothers around us . . .

. . . For those who, like Jesus' mother Mary, have been surprised by the unexpected responsibility of parenting. Remind us not so much of the circumstance through which children come into the world, but that they are always a gift from you. Help us to always see your image in them.

. . . We pray for those who, like Naomi, find themselves parenting someone outside the predictable patterns of mothering. Bless this day all grandparents, aunts, foster parents, adoptive parents, and kindly people who care for children.

. . . And we give thanks for those like Ruth who become caregivers for their elders. Because the generations that need to be mothered and the seasons of our lives can change, we sometimes find ourselves mothering those who have even forgotten who we are. We take strength in knowing that you remember their identity when they no longer do. Grant courage and strength to all those who provide care in your name.

. . . We pray for those who, like Hannah, have struggled with the task of letting go of a child. Teach us to support our children, even when the calling of their hearts does not meet our greatest hope for them.

. . . We pray for those like Mary or Rachel who have known the deepest agony of a child's death. Remind them again that nothing can separate their child from your certain love. Give strength and peace to those who mourn and those who cannot stop mourning.

. . . We pray for those who, like Hannah and Sarah, have known the struggle to conceive. We pray that you would hold them in their heartache.

. . . On this day we set aside to remember mothering, we also call to mind those men who are called to the vocation of mothering, those who, in the absence of another, seek the heart of a Mary or a Rachel. Let us renew our commitment to uphold them this day.

God, we give you thanks that, even if our mother or father forsake us that you love us still...