

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, May 9th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre

Welcome

Call to Worship

(Psa 34:1-10)

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Prayer of Invocation

Our Father and our God, we come into your presence as a congregation in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ who ever lives to intercede on our behalf at your right hand and to offer you our worship, praise and thanksgiving. Lead us we pray by your Spirit, that we might worship you aright and in our worship be blessed and strengthened in our faith and obedience by a fresh glimpse of your glory and holiness so that we might walk before you as those worthy of the calling we have received in Christ, for it is in his name that we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn # 651:

“For All The Saints”, First Plymouth Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rqwg7f2FpNk>

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
 who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
 your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed:
 Alleluia, alleluia

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight,
Thou in the darkness, drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

3. Oh blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine
yet, all are one in thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear, the distant triumph-song;
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia!

5. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast
through gates of pearl, stream in the countless host
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Call to Confession (Psa 32:1-5)

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Our Lord is faithful to all his promises. And all the promises of God in Jesus are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Christ's resurrection confirms this great truth. Our sins may be many, but his mercy is more. So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together...

Prayer of Confession

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours having been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to you and your grace toward us. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your grace and strength to

overcome the sins that so easily entangle us. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us to be who you would have us to be and by your Spirit enabled us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to yourself and strengthen our relationship with you and with those you have given us as we walk this earth. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Psa 103:11-12)

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

The iniquity of us all has been laid upon our Saviour and he has cleansed us from them by his sinless life's blood. Let us therefore press on in the knowledge that we are forgiven and heed not the Accuser's accusations. In Christ we are forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Responsive Reading

Psa 127 & 128

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

**The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of
Jerusalem all the days of your life!**

May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

**Ministry of Music: "My Life is in Your Hands" sung by the Brooklyn
Tabernacle Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS6tQYJVO80>

You don't have to worry and don't you be afraid
Joy comes in the morning, troubles they don't last always
For there's a friend in Jesus, who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say:
"I know that I can make it
I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands"

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Joy comes in the morning, troubles they don't last always
For there's a friend in Jesus, who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say:
"I know that I can make it
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No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands
With Jesus I can take it
With him I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands.

So when your tests and trials
They seem to get you down
And all your friends and loved ones
Are nowhere to be found
Remember there's a friend named Jesus
Who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken
Just lift your hands and say

"I know that I can make it
I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands
With Jesus I can take it
With him I know I can stand

No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands.

Ending

My life is in Your hands (3X)

Scripture Reading:

Ex 2:1-10

1 *Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman.*

2 *The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.*

3 *When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.*

4 *And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.*

5 *Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.*

6 *When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."*

7 *Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"*

8 *And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.*

9 *And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.*

10 *When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Father, what we do not know, teach us. What we have not, give us. What we are not, kindly make us, for your Son's sake. **Amen.**

“Mandate for Mothers”

Exodus 2:9

“And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.”

In our recent times together we have been considering aspects of the great redemption we have in Christ. But this morning we will take a break from that series because of the particular Sunday that has fallen on this date.

You see, scores of children have awakened earlier than usual today and have taken on the project of serving mother, “Breakfast in Bed” (The ultimate luxury no doubt!) Why? Because it’s Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day came into existence in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson directed the Congress of the United States to designate the second Sunday of May as a special day for public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of America. It has obviously caught on here in Canada as it has been celebrated here from perhaps the same time

“Mothers” hold a special place in our hearts, and no matter how *mature* or *old* we grow. Who can forget their sage advice & profitable admonitions? In areas like:

- LOGIC: "If everyone else jumped off a cliff would you do it too?"
- MEDICINE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."
- HUMOR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
- ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until your father gets home."
- RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when I get you home."
- RELIGION: "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
- WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."
- HYPOCRISY: "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times: Don't Exaggerate!"

It is good and fitting that we, as families, and as a church, honour our mothers & the institution of motherhood. It is particularly needful to maintain an awareness of the unique role of motherhood because of the Post Christian/Post Modern times & culture in which we live. With the redefinition of marriage, the synthesizing of parental roles and the more recent push to obliterate the two God created genders and institute multiple genders, there is a greater need to uphold

the reality of motherhood. If the church of Jesus Christ doesn't do it, you can hardly expect academia and governing authorities to do it. Just recently one of the Covid 19 vaccination announcements stated that pregnant persons (Not mothers) could register for vaccinations. It is readily apparent that the value of true motherhood is being diminished in our culture. The "God-ordained" principles of family and motherhood have been largely replaced by "man-made" concepts that originate in the darkened minds of people who do not know God or acknowledge His ways. If these trends continue, "Motherhood" and the family as it has been down through the ages may well find itself on the "Endangered Species" list.

The "Family" is in need of support like never before! In fact, God places great emphasis on the ministry of a mother. Mothers are included in the 5th commandment where we are commanded to "Honour your father **and mother**. (Pro1:8), says "Do not forsake **your mother's teaching**." And (Pro 15:20) tells us that anyone who despises or underestimates the significance of their mother is a fool. Mothers are worthy of honour & respect because God has assigned mother her role. We see this role set forth in a familiar OT story. (Ex. 2:9),
"And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

The words of the Egyptian Princess *"Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages"* convey the essence of, "God's Mandate for Mothers." What is it? – It is a mandate of nurturing.

There are components worth considering within this mandate of nurturing.

First of all, **A Child is a Gift from the Lord.**

Psa. 127:3, says, *Behold, children are a heritage* (gift other translations) *from the LORD*, the fruit of the womb a reward. The children a mother bears are a reward and a heritage from the LORD! "Heritage" is defined as: *"That which is received in order to pass on to a later generation."* Children are the embodiment of the God-given life that is sustained from one generation to the next. The birth of a child is God saying to the mother, "Take this child – he/she is my gift to you." "You're a participant with me in the renewal of life."

Now, a mother may say, I conceived this child, I brought it to term, I laboured to deliver it. It is my child by right of birth. It ought to be *my* gift to God. In a sense this is true. But in this account from Exodus, Pharaoh's daughter represented the power of life and death to the child. She could have had him tossed into the Nile

River to be drowned. But instead, the Princess gave the child to his natural mother. Thus to Jochebed, (Moses' mother), the Egyptian princess represented the means of life for her son. And she gladly accepted her own child back as a gift from a sovereign power.

It is a wise mother, who accepts her children as a gift from the Lord. For when she does, she is upheld by the realization that not only does she possess the gift; she has God's resources for the rearing of the child at her disposal as well. When you view your children as gifts from God, it will stand you in good stead in both rough and smooth seasons. *"Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages."* **A Child is a "Gift from the Lord"**

Then too, **a Mothers Mandate is to Nurture Her Child**. Implicit in the gift of the child is the command to care for it. The princess said, *"Take this child away and nurse him for me."* The child is a gift *from the Lord*. The labour involved in its care is *for the Lord*. And what a labour it is! Giving birth to the child is severe labour. But the labour doesn't cease at the moment of delivery. That child must be maintained, and the maintenance of the child is a labour. God has mandated mothers to faithfully nurture sustain & uphold their children. These things are inherent in the meaning of the term, "nurse".

In Scripture, the imagery associated with the word "Nurse," is one of abundance, satisfaction & comfort. These comforts come at the expense of a mother's energy, for a nursing mother gives of her own life's energies. But she does so in a host of other ways as well. There are diapers to change, trips to cribs in the night. Noses to wipe, schedules to rearrange, clothes to wash, dry, fold & put away. There are prescriptions to fill, medicine to administer, hurts and sorrows to rock and kiss away. There is the preparing means – Then pleading for the kids to eat. There are lunches to make, cookies to bake, recitals to go to, ball games, hockey games, and safe arrivals to lay awake for. Day after day, she is giving constantly of her life's energy.

God's mandate to mothers is one of nurturing. And a mother nurtures by giving of herself, transferring her energy, infusing her life into the lives of her children who depend upon her for their welfare and who can never really repay her. A mother's labour doesn't end with delivery. Her labour continues. To nurture is to labour. It is a labour of blood, sweat, toil & tears, day and night, day in & day out!

But it is a labour full of purpose because the text says, *"Take this child and*

nurse him for ***me!***” Maybe there is a mother or a grandmother here who is discouraged. Your giving never seems to let up. You are at your wits end. You feel drained and run down. Listen and take heart. If you are a Christian, you need to understand that you are nurturing the Lord’s heritage. You are watching over His gift. You are nursing your children for Him. It is a labour that has eternal purpose.

Listen to the words of (1 Cor 15:58); *“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”* Do you consider your children as our Lord’s gift to you? Do you see yourself as a nurturer of the Lord’s gift? **A Mothers Mandate is to Nurture Her Child.**

There also is a **Reward for Faithful Nurturing**. Pharaoh’s daughter said: *“Take this child away and nurse him for me, and **I will give you your wages**”*

There is a reward for faithful nurturing. What are the wages? It’s pretty safe to say that one of the rewards of faithful nurturing is that the grace of God will be experienced. John Calvin wrote that;

“Children are not the fruit of chance, but God, as it seems good to Him distributes to every man/woman his/her share of them . . . those who thus reflect on the goodness of God in His giving of their children, will readily and with a settled mind, look for the continuance of God’s grace.”

When you view your children as gifts from God and yourself as the caretaker of His gifts, a deeper understanding of God’s grace is acquired. It is acquired through His call to partner with Him in developing the young lives He entrusts to you.

As you love, forgive, correct and guide them, all the while giving of yourself & your life’s energy, amazing insight into the meaning of grace are gained. And as you live out that grace toward your children God’s love and grace will be magnified for you.

Another reward will be that **your faith in God will be increased**. No sooner do you bear the child than you begin to realize that you have an independent thinker on your hands. You realize that the molding of your child’s character will require more resources than you may have. You’ll want that child to develop and live wisely. You will want to train him according to the wisdom of God. And you’ll want to nurture that young life with firm and consistent love.

But you will find that you need more help. So you place him under the teaching of the church, and also pray for that child. You may well pray along the

lines of the parents in the Robert Burns poem: (A Cotter's Saturday Night)

*"That He who stills the raven's clamorous nest,
And decks the lily fair in flow'ry pride,
Would, in the way His wisdom sees the best,
For them and for their little ones provide;
But chiefly in their hearts, with grace divine preside."*

Isn't that what every Christian mother wants for her child? That Christ would "*chiefly in their hearts with grace divine preside!*" Doesn't that call for great faith? The children God gives you enlarges your trust and dependence upon Him. They are a means of increasing your faith as you entrust your children to his sovereign, loving care.

Finally, **a Mother's faithful nurturing is rewarded by growth.** Ex 2:9, "*So the woman took the child and nursed him. (V 10) And the child grew...*"

In (Psa 144:12, 14), David prayed that, *our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace... may there be no cry of distress in our streets!* As stewards of the Lord's heritage, mothers, play an indispensable role in bringing prayers like this to fulfillment. As stewards of the Lord's heritage, their children, mothers provide godly men and women as salt & light in a corrupt and darkened world. Mothers give to a nation, godly leaders, productive citizens, and generate by God's grace a positive effect on society.

In addition, mothers give to Christ's Church, adorning fixtures as described in (Isa. 61:3) where his people are *called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.* Mothers are in the business of rearing sons who become full grown plants, oaks of righteousness and daughters who are like corner pillars of beauty cut for the structure of a palace that glorify Christ's spotless bride the church.

If ever we needed the upcoming generation of men to be oaks of righteousness and women to be corner pillars of the Church and of society, surely it is now! O how we need men and women of God who stand for Christ and his kingdom! Men and women who are not *taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ* (Col 2:8). Men and women who are not *tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes* (Eph 4:14). If we're to have

such men and women, then it will take godly mothers (and fathers) who nurture their children according to the vows they made at the baptism of those children, when they promised to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Moses had such a mother.

When Moses became a man (Heb 11:24-28), “[He] *refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.*”

What a man Moses was! He turned his back on the culture of Pharaoh’s daughter with its fleeting pleasures of sin and instead clung to the principles and precepts of the godly mother that nurtured him in the things of the Lord her God! Moses had a mother that nurtured him, and his influence under God’s hand is still felt today.

God’s mandate to mothers is this: *“Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.”* The role of “Mother” deserves honour, respect, love and support. She has a mandate no other can fulfill. Her children are a gift from God. Her role is to nurture His child. Her reward will be eternal.

May each of us rise up and call her blessed.

Hymn: “Jesus, Strong and Kind” (feat. Colin Buchanan)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac&feature=youtu.be

1. Jesus said
That if I thirst
I should come to him
No one else can satisfy
I should come to him
2. Jesus said
If I am weak
I should come to him
No one else can be my strength
I should come to him

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night

We can always run to Jesus
Jesus strong and kind

3. Jesus said
That if I fear
I should come to him
No one else can be my shield
I should come to him

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus strong and kind

4. Jesus said
If I am lost
He will come to me
And he showed me on that cross
He will come to me

Chorus (X2)

For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus strong and kind

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) **We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer.** This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Invitation to Offering (II Cor 8:1-5)

Paul's testimony regarding the churches of Macedonia was that...*"in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of*

the saints — and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

Offertory Prayer

Our Father and our God, as we present our offerings to you in worship today, may it be out of an abundance of joy from first having given ourselves to you and giving not only according to our means, but even beyond our means as a favour to you and the spreading of the gospel for Jesus Sake. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Our gracious God and Saviour, we confess you as the one true and living God, the God in whom we live, move and have our being and the God who has taken up residence among us in the person of God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise and thank you for your great redeeming work in him and for the living hope we have as a result of his work in securing for eternity, all who rest in him by faith.

We thank you for your sanctifying work in those who down through the ages have been true to the faith once delivered to the saints so that we have been privileged to the good news of the Gospel presented to us by word of mouth and by the printed page of your inspired Scriptures.

We pray for your church scattered throughout the nations of the world. Some are enduring great hardship and we pray for your strengthening grace to encourage and uphold them in their time of affliction. Some are by your grace growing in number and in the knowledge of your word and your will. Grant them perseverance in the faith and continued growth in it. Others have become stagnant and ineffective in their witness. Grant to them an inner stirring by your Spirit that they might be revived and renewed to again proclaim the truths and love of God in the Gospel of Christ.

We pray for this congregation as they look to you for the provision of a minister. Be pleased we pray, to provide us with a shepherd that will proclaim the word of life in its fullness with clarity and conviction that your word may go forth not only within the congregation, but also via the congregation into the larger community to the saving and edification of men and women, boys and girls.

We remember before you those from among us and their loved ones who are under duress as a result of physical ailments of various kinds. Be pleased to raise them up again to health and strength. And if not, by your Spirit comfort and uphold each of your own in such a way that they know that you are near and even though they are cast down may they sense that

you are with them and that your goodness and mercy are still following them and always will, even if it be through death's dark vale. For those with other difficulties and afflictions, we pray that you will uphold and deliver them from every evil that may assail them. Help them to remember that they are in Christ's possession and that he will preserve them in their going out and coming in.

We pray for our governing authorities as they serve through these tumultuous times. Give them wisdom and discernment that they may govern well and for the benefit of the people. We remember those in the education system, medical personal, caregivers and those who carry out research. Grant them endurance as they serve through these days of pandemic. And if it is your will, be pleased to thwart the spread of this troublesome virus.

For other matters that are personal and private, we know that you know all about us and that you are able to do more than we can even imagine. And so we commend these matters to you trusting in your promise that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purposes.

Hear our prayers we pray, for we do so in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "All My Ways Are Known To You" by CityAlight
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44mVzqGeS-Q>

1. In days of peace and days of rest
 In times of loss and loneliness
 Though rich or poor, Your word is true
 That all my ways are known to You
2. No trial has come beyond Your hand
 No step I walk beyond Your plan
 The path is dark outside my view
 Still all my ways are known to You

Chorus

And oh what peace that I have found
 Wherever I may be
 For all my ways are known to You
 Hallelujah, they are known to You!

3. I do not fear the final night
 For death will be the door to life
 You take my hand and lead me through
 For all my ways are known to You

Chorus

And oh what peace that I have found
Wherever I may be
For all my ways are known to You
Hallelujah, they are known to You!

Bridge

Open up my eyes so I may see
That You have made these ways for me
Open up my eyes so I may see
That You my God, will walk with me

Benediction

The LORD bless you, and keep you: The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**