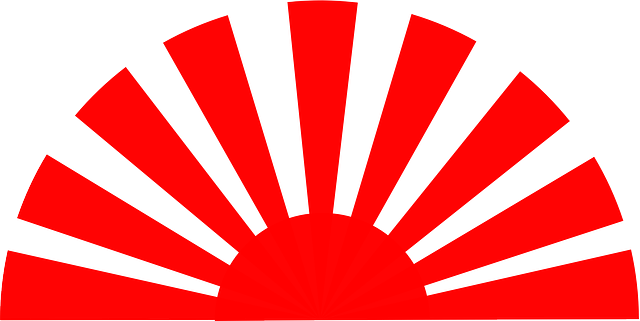
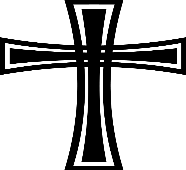
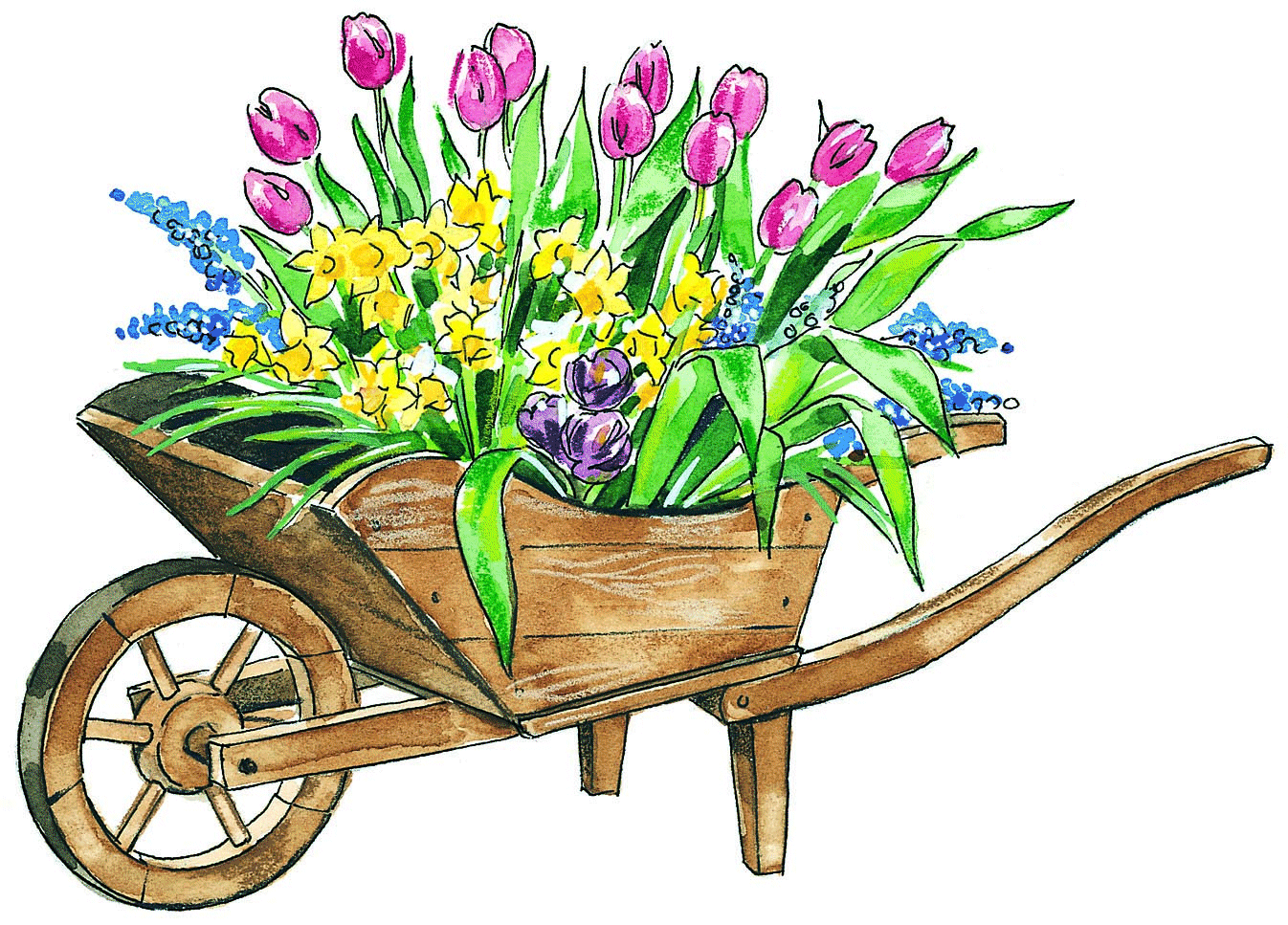
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 St. Paul’s Beacon ST. PAUL’S BEACON   
 St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
 16457 Old Frederick Rd.   
 Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771   
 410-489-4411 May 2021**

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| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Mark Your Calendars**  Sundays, in May, 9:00 a.m. Service via Zoom and Facebook from St. Paul’s.  **Weather permitting the service will be held outdoors.** |   **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 18TH**  On April 18th, a congregational meeting was called by the Vestry to inform the congregation about the efforts of the Vestry and the Long-Term Planning Committee over the past few months. The goal of the meeting was to assist the congregation in understanding our current situation and the efforts underway to move us toward the future. The meeting was well attended both in the church and on-line.  Senior Warden Jeff Spaulding conducted the meeting and provided the congregation with a list of planning assumptions which were developed by the Vestry to assist the congregation in understanding our current circumstances. It was noted that each of the 9 planning assumptions were unanimously approved by the Vestry – those with the greatest knowledge of our current circumstances and entrusted by the congregation to make decisions on behalf of the entire congregation. The planning assumptions included:   * **Your Vestry is committed to the future of St. Paul’s.** * **We are an aging congregation that has declined in numbers by half over the past decade.** * **As the congregation has aged, there are fewer members who are able to assist with essential functions such as Vestry and committee work, ministry, outreach, fundraising and routine maintenance activities. This has increased the burden on those willing and able to assist.** * **Pledges, the fiscal lifeblood of the church, have declined by nearly 40% over the past decade. The number of those able to pledge has also decreased. These decreases have resulted in regular deficit spending and a decline in our cash reserves.** * **Multiple efforts over the past decade to bring new members to our church have proven largely unsuccessful. We have recently had two families with children join St. Paul’s. We owe them a thriving environment with Christian formation where the children will be supported in their faith with other children.** * **Our current fiscal situation will not permit the hiring of a ½ time priest.** * **The Bishop and Standing Committee are committed to working with St. Paul’s to find a long-term solution. This will require substantial effort on our part. They are monitoring our efforts to ensure that we are moving forward with our planning efforts.** * **“More of the same” will result in a continued decline and the ultimate demise of St. Paul’s. This is not an option the Vestry is willing to accept. Sustaining St. Paul’s will require all of us to consider new options and embrace change.** * **The future St. Paul’s will not look like the St. Paul’s we know and love today.**   Jeff also provided an update on ongoing efforts to seek collaboration with other congregations in our area. This has included informal discussions with St. James, St. Barnabas and St. Andrews. At this time the most promising prospect appears to be St. Andrews – although no firm plans have been made and discussions are in a very preliminary stage. Jeff and Pete McIntosh have a follow-up meeting with the Junior and Seniors Wardens of St. Andrew’s on April 20th to further the discussion. Jeff noted that no decisions have been made and it is too early to know if these discussions will result in positive outcomes moving forward.  Jeff closed by informing the congregation that there are things that the congregation can do to support the Vestry as they work to discern a path forward for St. Paul’s. These include:   * Praying for St. Paul’s, the Vestry and the Long-Term Planning Committee. * Encourage family, friends and neighbors to join us at St. Paul’s. * Share your thoughts and feelings with the Vestry to ensure that they have the best information available when making decisions on behalf of St. Paul’s.   Jeff closed the meeting by reminding the congregation that a collaboration with St. Andrew’s or any other congregation cannot save St. Paul’s. We have to do the work if St. Paul’s is going to continue to spread God’s word in our community. He also reinforced that sustaining St. Paul’s will require all of us to consider new options and embrace change. St. Paul’s Vestry  **Regathering Information**  The Vestry has decided to allow everyone to return to church, regardless of vaccination status - with the understanding that no on with symptoms should attend church.  Likewise, everyone will have to comply with masking and social distancing requirements.  The first 16 members will be provided seating in the church consistent with our regathering plan approved by the Diocese (typically on a first come-first serve basis).  Additional attendees will be seated in the parish hall where we have set up speakers so they can hear the service.  **For a Time Such as This**  Dear God,  As you did your Son, drag us out of our tombs. There is no virtue in the world, no lifestyle choices, no amount of wokeness that can pull the sun up from the East every day, Lord.  So turn our heads, even if ever so slightly, toward the dawn, so that we may know that it is your grace that both raises the sun and raised the dead. Even if we have given up, yank us out of our graves of choice. Rescue us from despairing. When we return to tombs that are no longer meant for us:  revive old resentments, pick up a drink after years of sobriety; again give pieces of our   hearts to that which can never love us back.  Remind us that you never tire of reaching into tombs and loving us back to life. Comfort the dying, Lord. Revive the faltering.  Grant us joy and make our song Alleluia…not because we aren’t paying attention, but because we are. Amen The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber **A Statement on violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander communitiesA Statement on violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.** March 24, 2021 Once again, our nation is faced with incidents of senseless violence and the loss of lives of God’s beloved people. We are witnessing a sharp rise in disturbing violent incidents committed against our Asian American sisters and brothers, including most of the victims in the deadly shootings in Atlanta. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Bishops of the Diocese of Maryland condemn these acts of violence and reaffirm our diocese’s stance on addressing all expressions of hate, bias, bigotry, discrimination and racism.  Holy Scripture and our faith tradition teaches us that we are all made in the image of God.  Yet, racially motivated violence and murder continue among us. We continue to suffer the legacy of the history of this country which was built on the backs of kidnapped and enslaved people and then denied full citizenship. This was expanded to the Indigenous people where their lands were stolen and then their self-determination minimized by squeezing them onto reservations far removed from their sacred grounds.  For hundreds of years, hateful words and actions have been used against black, brown and Asian people to keep them in a constant state of “otherness.” Hate, fear and ignorance have played a major role in keeping us all separated from one another and from God. Sadly, this continues still.  We should not be surprised at the recent targeting, assaulting and murdering of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. These attacks follow the unconscionable expression of anti-Asian sentiments which began at the start of the pandemic from the highest level of our government. Fear of other makes the climate of racism and xenophobia in our country a safe haven for white supremacy to reign as it has for hundreds of years. Racially motivated violence will simply continue until we decide to address it on all of its levels.  As Christians, we must commit to the truth of Audre Lorde’s assertion that “there is no hierarchy of oppression,” and to remember that as the Body of Christ in the world, we are called to not only welcome all to God’s table, but to love all of God’s children. As a community of love, our diocese remains committed to creating and sustaining the beloved community as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called us to more than fifty years ago, and we express our love and support for our Asian brothers and sisters by standing in solidarity with them during these troubling times and beyond.  The Diocesan Truth and Reconciliation Commission The Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton The Right Rev. Robert W. Ihloff  **Meet the Episcopal Priest moonlighting as a Mars Rover Mission Scientist**  Pamela Conrad is the current Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Diocese of Maryland  When Episcopal News Service recently spoke to the Rev. Pamela Conrad, rector of [St. Alban’s Episcopal Church](https://saintalbanschurch.org/) in Glen Burnie, Maryland, she was exhausted – but not only from the liturgical marathon of Holy Week or the weary slog of daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of that, Conrad is a member of the tactical operations team for [NASA’s Mars rover mission](https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/), often working through the night, analyzing feedback from the Perseverance rover as it searches for signs of potential life.  From her living room in Maryland, Conrad connects virtually with scientists around the country and at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California for several shifts a week, monitoring sensors that she helped design as they transmit data about the Martian environment. Among the instruments she works with are the cameras that have sent back [over 25,000 photos](https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/multimedia/raw-images/), including Perseverance’s first selfie, which shows the rover and the small helicopter that is expected to take the first-ever powered flight on another planet later this week.  “Every time we get new images, it is such an amazing sense of awe,” Conrad said. Conrad, 68, has been working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration since 1999 on projects including the [Curiosity rover](https://mars.nasa.gov/msl/home/), which landed on Mars in 2012. Priesthood is a more recent vocation; she was ordained in 2017 and has continued her scientific work on the side since becoming a rector. “My full-time job – and I’m very clear about this – is as a priest. And my second thing that I do is the science because the science informs my ministry as a priest,” Conrad said. She told ENS that the scientific and spiritual worlds have always been intertwined for her, united by a sense of wonder. From an early age, she remembers “being very in touch with the general concept of nature and God.” “I think that the evolution of me as an explorer with respect to this world as well as other worlds, and also as an explorer of the vast spiritual landscape that’s internal, have both been present, always,” she said. Conrad traces her interest in space exploration back to the night when she was a toddler and her father pointed out Sputnik – the first satellite launched into orbit – passing overhead, but she took a roundabout route through other professions before arriving at NASA. After training as a musician and working as a video producer, she pursued a graduate degree in geology, focusing on geobiology – the study of how life arises from planetary landscapes. That led to a job at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she applied her knowledge of geobiology to the search for life on Mars.  Pamela Conrad speaks at a Nat Geo Live event in 2014. Photo: Bill Ingalls/NASA “[It] was an obvious choice to become involved with Mars right away,” Conrad said, “being our closest planetary neighbor and one that I could reasonably explore in my lifetime with robots.” But all the while, Conrad was experiencing a parallel calling to return to The Episcopal Church, from which she had “run in horror” as a young woman. In the 1970s, when Conrad was in college and women’s ordination was a disputed issue, the rector of her church in was disciplined for allowing an irregularly ordained woman to celebrate the Eucharist. “I just said, ‘You know, Jesus would never approve of business this way; I’m just going to go be a free agent.’ And that didn’t work because I kept getting this subtle call back to community, but I didn’t know how that should be manifest,” she recalled. Two moments of epiphany gave her some clarity. On a trip to Antarctica, she stood and stared at a distant mountain range as the wind pounded her face and “felt all the anger that I had about the church just blow out of me. … It was a road-to-Damascus moment.” Then, at a rally against [Proposition 8](https://mars.nasa.gov/msl/home/) – the 2008 California ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in the state – she was saddened by an encounter with anti-gay Christian protesters who were screaming in anger, along with their children. “I remember thinking, ‘If I had stayed in the church, perhaps I could have been a voice of kindness and love and there wouldn’t be little children yelling,’” she told ENS. “That’s when I thought, ‘I’m going back to church, and I’m going to stay until I can develop my own leadership within the church.’” At first, she worried what her scientific colleagues would think about her entering the ordination process, but it ended up confirming her call to ministry. “I was afraid to tell them,” she said. “As it turns out, no one thought it was weird. In fact, they began to come to me in a pastoral sense. And I was surprised. That was a good lesson – that I should not prejudge people, and that we all have the need to connect in community, no matter how nerdy we are. … I think you always deal with people on a pastoral basis, whether you’re relating to them on a science project or you’re relating to them in a congregation.” Now, with her role as a full-time rector, she must balance her participation in the Perseverance mission with the responsibilities of a parish priest. She only takes night shifts if she knows she can sleep in the next day, and she finds a substitute if something comes up, like the recent death of a parishioner. “It’s difficult to draw the line sometimes … but I have to be disciplined about that, because the pastoral needs of the people in my congregation are my highest priority.” Conrad is a firm believer in the harmony of science and faith – which she advocates through her leadership role in the North American province of the [Society of Ordained Scientists](https://ordsci.org/) – and sees the search for life on Mars as an affirmation of a God who exceeds human understanding.  “People often regard humans as the pinnacle of creation. We don’t want to consider the possibility that Mom doesn’t like us best,” she told ENS. “As Christians, what we have to ask ourselves is, If God can create life here, is God big enough to create life elsewhere? Of course, the answer is yes.” Conrad also sees a role for The Episcopal Church in dispelling the myth that science and religion are incompatible, given its roots in the Anglican concept of faith informed by reason. “In a time when people are discarding reason in favor of conspiracy theories, or suspicion of science, we can help,” she said. “And I believe that we are called to this moment to help reconcile those two perspectives so that we can ask ourselves, Why wouldn’t we use all the gifts in our disposal, all the processes of learning and knowing? And science is one of those processes.” She also thinks the church is called to take a proactive approach to the ethics of interplanetary travel and colonization. Given the tragedies brought about by exploration and colonization on Earth, Conrad wants Christians to start thinking carefully about how the human race can ethically expand beyond Earth. “How can we as a culture do a respectful job of exploring so that we can explore without exploiting?” she asked. “As we become poised to be an interplanetary species – and we will, because exploration is a biological imperative – will we take our Christian selves into that exploration? … And we as beloved community can play a role in that by articulating it now before we lift off for Mars.” – Egan Millard: assistant editor  **Scrip: Gift Cards**  Plan to incorporate Scrip (Gift Cards) into your routine purchases. We all must buy groceries, gas, gifts, etc. Please plan, what you need to buy, ahead of time – THEN order Scrip and have them on hand – so that you will have the gift cards when you need them. Remember, buying Scrip is the easiest and the most non-painful way to support St. Paul’s bottom line. During this difficult time, I will be happy to tailor your delivery options. You may call or text me at 410-984-3363.  Thanking you in advance for your support of our church and its programs.  Stay safe. Stay happy. Buy gift cards. Peter McIntosh, Chair  **Mt. Airy Net:** St. Paul’s Mt. Airy Net donation box has been empty, due to the COVID-19. Please bring your donations to the church during the hours the church office is opened, 9:00 – Noon, Monday through Thursday. Thank you.    **Stewardship** Thank you for your continuing financial support during this period of uncertainty due to COVID-19. The Sunday Church service via Zoom is still on-going, and our work and bills are still on their usual schedule. It is especially important for all of us to keep our pledges up to date. Even though we are not physically meeting, other donations you may wish to make, in thanksgiving, memory, or other designations will be listed in the appropriate bulletin. We know that it is the occasion, not the flowers, you want to acknowledge. We appreciate those of you who have been giving faithfully. Your commitment (pledge) to St. Paul’s dictates the budget, financial planning, and spending of the church. Your Vestry depends on pledge information to inform its priorities and actions.  Therefore, please keep current, by mailing (or dropping off, during office hours) your checks to St. Paul’s. Please remember to include any special offerings/donations, in addition to your pledge or regular contribution. If you did not have the opportunity to participate in St. Paul’s Fall Fundraiser- **now is the time-Spring is here.** The same guidelines apply. So, donate. As usual, St. Paul’s will properly record your financial gift.  **St. Paul’s Thrift Shop** Our Thrift Shop plans to open Thursday**, May 6, 7 & 8 from 11 a.m. – 2 pm.** (note change to hours of operation) Stay tuned for updates. Donations are being accepted. The donation shed is open all the time for donations.  Come shop beginning on Thursday, May 6, when you will be able to shop to your heart’s delight. And support the ministries of St. Paul’s.  **Remembering our Parishioners** Each month St. Paul’s would like to honor a parishioner with notes and or calls. For April, Joanne Honsberger has been selected. Please let her know that we miss her and  are praying for her and thinking about her.   Etta Lee Spaulding home: 410-549-5964 cell: 410-4097653 7200 Third Ave, #0-402 Sykesville, MD 21784    **St. Paul’s “A Shining Light in**   **the Community”** |
| http://us.cdn3.123rf.com/168nwm/windmilldesigns/windmilldesigns1506/windmilldesigns150601675/41426109-these-praying-hands-make-a-wonderful-gift-for-church-members.jpg**Prayer List**  Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier; Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm; Dave Lawson; Bryan Landry; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley; Jaxon & Nathan Buckley; Doris Sharp; Chris Tuel; the Gallagher family; the Harrington family; Janet; John Michael; Irina; Al Yeater; John Tuel; Polly Moore; Joe & Eileen; Clair & Kevin Murray; Inez, Teaon Everage and persons, who have died from Covid-19 and their families. |
| |  | | --- | | **MISSION STATEMENT** | | **Our Mission is:** To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God’s presence in their daily lives. |   **Prayer for Healing and Comfort** Lord of Heaven,  I rest underneath your mighty wings of love. I dwell within your gentle heart. I know there is healing in your touch. Through the sufferings of Christ I can ask for restoration  And trust in your goodness. You are my Lord, my Saviour,  My healer and my friend. I dwell within your gentle embrace. Amen.  **Upcoming Events** Sundays in May Church Service, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom or Facebook.  Service will be held outdoors when weather permits.  **Pastoral Concerns** Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office, (410) 489-4411, email: [stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net) |

**Happy Birthday to: Vestry Officers & Members** Nancy McIntosh May 12 Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden  
 Helen Tuel May 16 Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden  
 Gerlinde Pflaumer-Yeater May 17 Treasurer: Linda Sharp  
 Registrar: Nancy McIntosh  
 Kathleen Alexander Stephen Jones   
   
 Suzanne Bourg Phyllis Weston  
   
 Ron Alexander Wendy Gahm

**Happy Anniversary to:** Ron & Kathleen Alexander May 19



**May 2021~ SERVICE CALENDAR**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **May 2, 5th Easter  White** | **May 9, 6th Easter  White** | **May 16, 7th Easter  White** | **May 23,  Pentecost  Red** | **May 30, Trinity Sunday White** |
|  | **9:00 A.M.** | **9:00 A. M.** | **9:00 A. M.** | **9:00 A.M.** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lector** | Stephen Jones | Dick Wilcher | Ron Alexander | Jeff Spaulding | Pete McIntosh |
| **Psalm** | Lee Hajek | Jeff Spaulding | Linda Sharp | William Toole | Helen Tuel |
| **Prayers of the People** | Jeff Spaulding | Dick Wilcher | Kathleen Alexander | Linda Sharp | Lee Hajek |

Even though our services are via Zoom, it is **necessary for readers to attend in** **person.** Because, if you are participating through Zoom, the worship leaders/audience will **not be able to hear your voice**. Therefore, please let the parish office know if you **cannot attend in person** so that someone else can be assigned to read. Thanks for your cooperation.



## Mother's Day Clip Art Flower - Free Clip Art Mother's Day - Free Transparent PNG Download - PNGkey**To the Moms Who Are**

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.  
To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.  
To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.  
To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.  
To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.  
To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.  
To those remembering Moms no longer with us.  
To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.  
Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.   
 The Rev. Hannah Kardon

## **A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers**

Good and Gentle God,  
we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.  
Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.  
Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.  
Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. - Author Unknown

**For Mother’s Day**

On this Mother’s Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way -- those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. Amen   
 The Rev. Leslie Nipps