

May 5, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Old Scotch Church,

We have made it to May. The upcoming graduations, end-of-school-year traditions, Memorial Day, and Mother's Day are going to look very different this year just as church services, fellowship, and church meetings look very different. Yet, there is an element of familiarity. Or, at least, I am hopeful there will be.

When Pastor Tracie asked me if I would write this week's letter, I wasn't sure exactly where the Spirit would lead me, but I trusted the process. For some reason, prayer has been hard for me during this season ... so, imagine my surprise, when the Spirit led me to create this Mother's Day prayer. I'm grateful for the gentle push to wrap myself in prayer for all of you. Thanks be to God. Please pray with me ...

Peace be with you!

Chris

A Mother's Day Prayer - 2020

Gracious Heavenly Father amidst the world-wide pandemic of COVID-19, please hear this prayer honoring mothers. You chose Mary, a humble servant, to be the mother of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. For her nurturing, selfless ways we offer our thanks. Just as you blessed Mary, we ask your blessing now. Motherhood is both a perilous and joyful journey filled with ups and downs unique to each woman and child. Please bless those ...

... who worry during this pandemic about our children's, our grandchildren's, and our great-grandchildren's health and well-being.

... who worry during this pandemic about our mother's, our grandmother's, and our great-grandmother's health and well-being.

... who are now parent, teacher, and playmate.

Help us to breathe in and breathe out, to stay calm amidst the storm, to find the positive, and to feel your presence in each moment.

Please bless those ...

... who have lost their mother, recently; or so long ago. May their memories ease their grief.

... whose roles have reversed. It's not easy to be the child who now takes care of the mother.

... who are gold star mothers, having lost a child in military service. Fill the hole in their heart with your peace.

... who have lost a child. It's unthinkable. Their only comfort comes in knowing they are with you.

... who are separated from their child.

... who have given birth to a rainbow child, filling the void and their life with love.

... who have diligently and creatively gathered the funds to adopt a child.

... who have traveled thousands of miles to another country to adopt a child; or, stayed closer to home in creating a forever home.

... who have given birth, let go of the child, and given the gift of motherhood to another woman.

... who have temporarily sheltered a child.

... who have loved someone else's child in a classroom or community. What would we do without "other mothers?"

... who have blended children into new family structures.

... who parent alone.

... who parent while their spouse is deployed.

... who parent part-time.

... who struggle. Please let them know they are not alone. Help them to seek and find kind and caring resources.

... who are mothers-in-waiting. Waiting to become pregnant. Waiting for the birth.

... who are new mothers.

... who mother adult children.

... who mother small children.

... who mother teenagers.

... who love their children with all their being through the ups and downs of life.

You have known each of us since we were knitted in our mother's wombs. Thank you for your abounding grace. May we love and be loved in your image. Amen.