



**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Conversation Sunday
May 14, 2018
10:30 a.m.**

**Epworth United Methodist Church
3207 37th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
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The Call

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO GATHERING

~Barnabas in Churches (edited)

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us,
comforting and carrying us in her arms:

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...(Isaiah 66:13)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us.

God knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace,
trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

*But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned is my soul within me (Psalm 131:2)*

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us,
like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...

how often have I longed to gather your children together,

as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing (Matthew 23:37)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Paul writes about his missionary ministry

and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

*PRAISE

"Come, Come Everybody Worship" (vs 2 & 4)

#2271 FWS

The Conversation

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

~thisischurch.com

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful; speak tenderly to us and nurture us through the wisdom of your Word; Jesus Christ. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 131

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18-30; Luke 13:6-9

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Thy Word"

Grant/Smith

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"Love Lifted Me" (vs 1)

#3101 W&S

CHILDREN'S TIME

A Surprise

A TIME OF CONVERSATION

- Tell your favorite gardening story.
- Describe the connection between nurturing and gardening.
- How does Epworth nurture you?
- How might you use your gifts to nurture others?

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS

The Community

*CLOSING HYMN

"The Gift of Love"

#408 UMH

*SENDING

A Gardeners Benediction

Debra Prinzing (gardener/author)

"I wish you a wonderful journey that will introduce you to many generous and supportive gardening friends ...

May your gardens be free of slugs;
may your soil be rich and organic;
and may you enjoy equal parts of rain and sunshine."

*POSTLUDE