

# Congregational Prayer – Thank You for Women, and Moms, on Mother’s Day

Nurturing God, Wisdom, Sophia,

We thank you *for women*.

Strong. Creative. Nurturing women.

Who use their brains to calculate numbers and count the stars.

Who use their fingers to play keys and create sounds.

Dynamic. Quiet. Courageous women.

Who see a need, call a meeting, and raise money.

Who help those who require refuge, who are hungry, or who need a friend.

Teachers. Advocates. Empowering women.

Who reach out to children and notice the needs and potential of younger people.

Who plant gardens and watch birds.

Who sew and cook. Intervene. Love.

Thank you God for strong women.

Thank you *for mothers*.

Gutsy women who open their whole selves to you.

Who open their spirits to let your light shine through.

Who open their bodies to let you knit together precious ones in their wombs.

Who open their hearts to love.

Thank you for birth mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers.

Mothering is complicated, O God.

Sometimes it is the best things ever.

And sometimes it is not.

When heartache and love must be held side by side.

When loss wrenches the fibres of our beings and we are forever changed.

Comfort those whose wombs remain empty.

Console those whose arms are vacant after miscarriage and early infant loss.

Stand by and keep vigil with those who have been separated from their children.

Due to many factors, including addiction, mental illness, disease, or death.

May we honour the pain and joy that these experiences of mothering brings.

Today, O God, we thank you for *our* mothers.  
Real, flesh and blood women,  
Embodied in our complicated humanness.  
With skills and faults,  
Loves and hates,  
Frailties and strengths.  
Yet created by you in your image.  
Wonderfully made.  
Help us to honour them or treasure their memory.

Bless *all women*.  
Those who worry if they are enough.  
Those who wonder who they are called to be.  
Those who balance work, friends and family.  
All who are invited to remain open to you and your love.  
Bless all women with wisdom and joy.  
Amen.

Ruth Boehm (Canada), 2023.

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