

May 13, 2018

Planner: Nan Sargeant

“Open Our Minds to the Scriptures”

The Ascension, Luke 24: 44-53

Mother’s Day

Meditation Thought: When we become a Sabbath people, we give one of the most compelling witnesses to the world that we worship a God who desires our collective joy and good. We give concrete expression to an authentic faith that is working to deflate the anxious and destructive pride that supposes we have to “do it all” by ourselves and through our own effort. -----Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath*

Prelude

Welcome and Community Sharing

Call To Mindfulness

(Read the first two verses of CCS 566, “Christ Has Called Us To New Visions”)

*Hymn

Christ Has Called Us To New Visions

CCS 566

*We Invite the Spirit

*Response

Mother’s Day Greeting

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Prayer for Peace

Hymn

Womb of Life and Source of Being

CCS 62

Disciples Generous Response

Receiving and Blessing of Our Offerings

Ministry of Music

Be Thou My Vision

CCS 167

Holy Conversations

*Hymn

Speak, O Lord (duet sings first verse, cong. joins in)

CCS 66

*Benediction

*Response

*Postlude

Origins of Mother's Day, excerpted from www.godsweb/motherday.org

Many people see Mother's Day as a secular holiday, designed by the greeting card industry, promoted by restaurants, beloved by florists. Some clergy agree, objecting to the commercialism of the holiday. Does Mother's Day have religious meaning? If so what is it? Just consider the witness of its founder, Anna Jarvis.

American consumers typically spend about \$10 billion each year on Mother's Day for greeting cards, flowers, restaurant meals, and other presents for mom. But the numbers don't tell the whole story, by a long shot.

The religious and deeply Christian origins of Mother's Day reflect the faith of the woman credited as its founder, Anna Jarvis.

The Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, is called "the Mothers Day Church" because Anna Jarvis was active there; her former home in Grafton is a national landmark. Anna Jarvis was inspired by HER mother, Anna Reeves Jarvis who organized "Mothers' Work Day Clubs" in the 1850's in the area. The clubs provided medicines for the poor, inspected milk for children, provided nursing care for the sick, and shelters for children with tuberculosis.

When the Civil War broke out she called together several of her clubs and asked them to make a pledge that friendship and good will would not be a casualty of the war. In a remarkable display of courage and compassion the women nursed soldiers from both sides and saved many lives.

As if that weren't enough, Anna Reeves Jarvis became a genuine peace maker after the war. The wounds and animosity between families who fought on either side were deep. So Anna organized "Mothers' Friendship Days" to bring together families across the Mason Dixon line.

Anna Jarvis was born in 1850 and was an impressionable child and teenager when her mother was at the peak of her courageous work. So in 1907, two years after her mother's death, she organized the first "mothers' day" in Grafton so that the work of peacemaking and the war against poverty which her mother waged would not be forgotten.

If Mother's Day has become too commercial, Anna Jarvis would have been the first to object, indeed, she did protest the profiteering that had become part of Mother's Day even during her lifetime. The remedy for the excesses of this popular holiday, is not to ignore them, but to lift up the story of its founder, and her own mother, Anna Reeves Jarvis, both of whom exemplified the very best that the Christian faith has to offer.

Prayer for Peace, May 13, 2018 for Mothers' Day

God our Creator,

We pray

for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;

for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional
disabilities;

for those who have children they do not want;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;

for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,
and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,
living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.

Amen.