

## **Mothers' Day Call to Worship**

Creator God, we honor you as our Eternal Parent, carrying and nurturing us with divine love.

**Loving God, thank you for your tender care, the One who said: "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you..."** (Isaiah 66:13).

We remember Sarah who was taunted by others in the household because of her inability to have children.

**All-encompassing God, we pray for those who feel excluded when we emphasize one kind of family as normal.**

We remember Esther, who was adopted and raised by her cousin.

**God who embraces us all, we pray for those who cannot be raised by their parents, for a short time or permanently.**

We remember Jochebed, the mother of Moses, who placed him into a raft on the river.

**Saving God, we pray for parents who struggle to raise their children in oppressive circumstances.**

We remember Hannah, who loved her child so much she handed him over to another to raise.

**Loving God, we pray for parents who have placed their child in another family.**

We remember Naomi, who grieved the death of her sons.

**God, who grieves with us, we pray for parents who mourn the death of a child.**

We remember Ruth, who gave up her family to be family to another.

**Inclusive God, we pray for those who choose to be family to those isolated by culture or language or distance.**

We remember Elizabeth, who had a child in old age and we remember Mary, who birthed Jesus as a teenager.

**Ageless God, we pray that as a community we accept people of varying life stages and responsibilities and relationships.**

We remember Rachel, crying for her children.

**God of justice and hope, we pray for those whose children are killed, and look to a time when children can live safely in their communities.**

We remember Lois and Eunice, who taught Timothy faith by example.

**Faithful God, we pray for those who teach us faith by their lives, may we remember that we also teach about you in the way we live.**

We remember other people not named in the Scriptures, like the mother of the prodigal son.

**Companion God, we pray for those who wait for a phone call or a visit, cut off from family and friends by distance and disagreement.**

Nurturing God, we give thanks for those who enrich our lives by their presence, who teach us about your abundant love and who encourage us on the journey of faith.

**We praise you, O God, for all those who have nurtured us in love and faith. We praise you, O God, for new birth by your Spirit that includes us all in your family.**

