

A Litany and Prayer for Motherhood

Introduction

Each week during the Prayers of Intercession we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Today, with this litany, we lift up the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world through the lens of motherhood.

To those who become mothers through adoption –

we rejoice with you.

To those who are pregnant and those who have given birth –

we celebrate with you.

To those who know the ache of losing a child –

we mourn with you.

To those in the trenches with little ones every day, and wear badge-of-honor food stains –
we appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away –

we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment –

we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things.

We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms –

we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children –

we delight with you.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children –

we sit and sigh with you.

To those who have lost their mothers –

we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother –

We believe you.

To those who are tested by motherhood and milestones –

we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who have aborted children –
we remember them and you with love on this day.

To those who mother by loving nieces and nephews, students and neighbors –
we give you thanks for your nurturing.

To those who wish children had been part of the plan –
we mourn that absence with you.

To those who step-parent –
we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be –
we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year –
we pray for your transition.

To those who placed children up for adoption -
we remember you and how you hold that child in your heart

To all those who love fiercely and completely –
we are grateful for God's compassion and love shining through you.

Leader:

Let us pray.

For all who have been tasked with leadership in this difficult time; needing to make impossible decisions that impact the lives of others -

PEACE to you.

For all who are hurting right now: experiencing loneliness or agitation; feeling lost or hopeless; and all who are in pain – in body, mind, or spirit -

PEACE to you.

For all who are feeling disappointment: missing out on anticipated events, celebrations of milestones; job opportunities, and other moments you thought would be different -

PEACE to you.

For all of us – individuals, communities, and countries – a global family facing the realities of COVID-19 which include anxiety, illness and death.

PEACE to you.

Into your steady hands, O God, we entrust all for whom we pray, counting on the wideness of your mercy. **Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you.

You are invited to share a word or sign of God's peace today and in the week to come.

This litany was adapted by material from Amy Young, www.MessyMiddle.org. It was made by Rev. Lisa Janke and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for Olive Branch Community, Rochester, MN in 2020. Feel free to use or adapt.