

*God as Our Mother*  
*May 8, 2011 Mother's Day*

Let Us Pray,

God, as a mother you care for us in amazing ways. May these words be as words of life

Amen

"Our Father who art in heaven" we say as we pray. It comes naturally. For some, we have prayed this prayer all of our lives. We take it for granted. God cannot be pinned down or described in a concrete way. But, in ancient days, the father was the one who had the power in the family. ... The one who carried the family line from one generation to the next. It seems natural to describe God as father.

But, we live in a different world, don't we. Women are to be valued as equal as men- at least in some parts of the world. We cry out in anger and frustration when we see women oppressed. We understand the creative love of God for both men and women.

We often read in the scriptures – God is a compassionate God. The root word for compassion is "womb". God's love comes to us in a unique way because God gave birth and gives birth to us as a mother. And birth- what is more natural than birth? God as a mother gives us nourishment when nothing else can. Hosea had this to say," Yet, it was I who taught Ephraim to walk. I took them into my arms.... I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love... I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down and fed them. This creates a unique relationship between mother and child.

In Proverbs we are told that God delights in us. A mother delights in her children as she sees them grow and push their boundaries.

She is the one who hold us in the middle of the night when we can't sleep, when we face nightmares. She is the one that sings songs of hope into our lives and gives us courage.

Why is this important? Families face unique challenges in this day and time. We are going a mile a minute, trying to figure out how to stretch a dollar... We wonder when in the world we are going to have a minute to pause with our children and just plain savor how precious they are. And let's be honest. Even in the midst of parental battles... and we do pray a lot during those battles, it is important to know that God does savor, and does delight in how precious we are and how precious our children are. God does forgive our mistakes and the mistakes of our children as they grow. And even more so than that, God savors how precious the children are who struggle because they don't have the family they need. Thank you to God our mother.