

# Opening Prayers for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day, May 10, 2020

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## Welcome

Good morning and welcome to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, Ontario on Sunday, May 10, 2020. Happy Mother's Day to everyone. I hope this will be a day when you give thanks for all the people who have nurtured and cared for you in your life. Today we are actually recording in the sanctuary of St. Paul's, and we have Director of Music Blair Havers with us at the console of the four manual Cassavant organ, and soprano soloist Beth to lift your soul with music. Wherever you are, I pray that you will feel the presence of God around you in this worship.

## Call to Worship

The call to worship is from Isaiah 66:12-14 – The Lord says, “You will be like a child that is nursed by its mother, carried in her arms and treated with love. I will comfort you in Jerusalem, as a mother comforts her child.”

## Opening Prayers

Tender God, we praise and adore you because you hold us close like a loving mother. You nurture us like a caring mother. You love us even when we are destructive and disobedient, and only a mother *could* love us. Today we give thanks for all the people who have nurtured us and cared for us. Today we give thanks that in this life you arrange us in families and communities and circles of friends who care about us. We give you thanks for all the people who walk life's dusty road by our sides. We confess that we have not lived in good relationship with the people around us. We have taken them for granted. We have been mean and self centered. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to good community with all the people you have given us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying together, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen*