



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

MAY 12, 2024

MOTHER'S DAY – PASTOR KIM

Many women find Mother's Day difficult for a variety of reasons. We have all been born of a woman and we have all been influenced by a variety of women who have played different roles in our lives. And so, without listing all the reasons that this is a hard day for some women and perhaps some men, I want to remind us all that God cares for us deeply. While we refer to God as our Heavenly Father, there are scripture passages where God's love and care are compared to that of a mother. God is nurturing and loves us fiercely.

"Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions (the outer part of a bird's wing including the flight feathers)." Deuteronomy 32:11

"Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:15-16

"He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armour and protection." Psalm 91:4

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me." Matthew 23:37

On this Mother's Day may we remember the variety of women that have spoken into our lives and may we take comfort in the great love of God.



WORSHIP – UNSUNG HERO

*Once upon a time you were 25
Walking up the aisle
You made the promise of your life*

*Blinked twice and you were 29
Singing lullabies
And I looked up at you for the first time
Words fall short but I am sure
There'll never be anyone like you*

*You're strong like your father
Even when you are scared
When I was in trouble
You never left me there
And you love like your mother
Like there's nothing to lose
You're an unsung hero
So I'll sing this song for you*

*Woke up I was 21 and I fell in love
Remember how I told you that I'd
Searched the world and found the girl
And oh how she reminds me of you*

*You're strong like your father
Even when you are scared
When I was in trouble
You never left me there
And you love like your mother
Like there's nothing to lose
You're an unsung hero
So I'll sing this song for you*

*For all the times I fell down
You showed me how to stand
And when we crossed the ocean
You were my safe place to land*

*Been on a thousand stages
But when it's all said and done
I hope I make you proud of
Of the man that I've become*

*To be strong like my father
Even when I am scared
And when someone's in trouble
I'll never leave them there
And I'll love like my mother
Like there's nothing to lose
You're my unsung hero
And I sing this song for you*

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PRAYER FOCUS – PRAYING PAUL’S PRAYERS

“May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.” Philippians 1:2

Jonathan Klassen will begin his role as Teaching Pastor on Wednesday. Pray for Jon and Lynette and their family as they move into their new home on Monday and join us here at Mclvor. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help them with the move on Monday and to provide meals for them next week.

WHAT’S IN A GREETING? – PASTOR KIM

Greetings were very important in the ancient world. Here is the opening greeting in Paul’s letter:

“This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God’s holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.” Philippians 1:1-2

Why use the word “slaves”? Paul was letting them know how he saw himself. One of the themes in the letter is status, or position and the use of the word slaves suggested a specific position. The greeting could have had more of a tone of authority, or status—after all Paul was well known and he was the one who started their church.

A slave in that day was owned by someone, completely subservient to and responsible to an owner. Paul was saying that he was under the rule of Jesus.

There is a humbleness in this greeting that will be evident throughout the letter and a call for that same humbleness to be present among the congregation in Philippi.

Then Paul shifted to the congregation. He let them know that they were different; that they had a role in the community and a different way of life as followers of Jesus. They were a small community in Philippi, but he let them know that they were connected to followers of Jesus everywhere.

He separated the church and its leaders, not because they were special or superior, but rather, because while they had a distinct role within the church, they were still part of the overall group.

The standard greeting on the street at that time would have been more along the lines of “Be glad!” or “May you be in good spirits!” Much like we say, “Have a great day!”

But Paul chose a different greeting—a traditional Middle Eastern blessing—one that echoes the priestly blessing

of Aaron found in Numbers, “May the Lord be gracious towards you and give you peace.”

Not just “May you have grace and peace,” but “May THE LORD give you grace and peace.” He was calling on the Divine; calling on God to give grace and peace to this community. This was likely a common way for people within the Christian faith to greet each other.

It’s been almost 2,000 years since this letter was written, yet there is so much in it for us today. The theme of being generous and partnering with God to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus. The role of the congregation in helping others and the desire for the grace and peace of Jesus to fill us.

As we continue our look at Paul’s letter to the Philippians, may you be encouraged and inspired in your walk with Jesus! What an amazing blessing that God desires to partner with us to share His wonderful news of forgiveness and new life through Jesus! Have a wonderful week!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 3–8 p.m. – Quilters

Wednesday, 7–8:30 p.m. – Kids Club and Youth

Thursday, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. – Harvest Food Bank

May 21, 9:30–11 a.m. – 55+ Walk and Talk

May 26, 2 p.m. – Mclvor Hobby Show

June 23 – Celebration Sunday

June 27, 7 p.m. – Thursday Worship Service (no service on Sunday, June 30, Canada Day Long Weekend)

July 6 – 2nd Annual Mclvor Garden Tour

WAYS TO GIVE

We accept donations by cash or cheque, as well as e-transfers to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com or via credit card on www.mcivorchurch.com. To arrange a gift via Direct Deposit, please contact the office.

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