

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

May 2021

Extraordinary Mothers

Every mom, is extraordinary. Where would we be without the women who God entrusted to be our mothers - the women who carried us, delivered us, nurtured us, instructed us, disciplined us, and loved us unconditionally by their example led us to the LORD?

The Bible tells us of several extraordinary mothers whose faith in God was undeterred; who trusted the LORD with all their hearts. Think about it for just a moment . . . without mothers who feared God and were willing to be used of Him, Moses may have never floated in a basket on the Nile River and Jesus may never have been born in Bethlehem. Here are just a few:

JOCHEBED: Moses' mother, risked everything to save her infant son's life. At the time of Moses' birth, the Egyptian Pharaoh demanded that midwives kill every Hebrew boy born in Egypt - something done in an effort to control

the Hebrew population. Jochebed hid Moses in a basket of bulrushes and set him afloat on the Nile River to preserve his life (*Exodus 2:3*). Even Pharaoh's own daughter disobeyed the decree when she found Moses in the basket and took pity on him, adopting him as her own child (*Exodus 2:5-10*). Moses was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Jochebed made the sacrifice not only to ignore the Pharaoh's mandate and hide her son for three months, but to then selflessly release him so that he could survive and be cared for by the Pharaoh's daughter. In an amazing turn of events, Jochebed became Moses' nurse while Pharaoh's daughter raised him - an effort that kept her connected to her beloved son while he was a baby.

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

(Sunday Messages available on website:

www.avalongracechurch.com)

Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is

Currently Suspended

**“And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**

- Ephesians 3:9

Extraordinary Mothers (Continued from Page 1)

Exodus 2:9-10 (KJV) tells us what happened after Pharaoh's daughter discovered Moses in the basket on the Nile and hired Jochebed to nurse the boy:



“And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, ‘Take this child away, and nurse it for

me, and I will give thee thy wages.’ And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, because I drew him out of the water.”

The Bible doesn't tell us if Jochebed lived to see her son be used of God as Moses led the Jews out of bondage from Egypt; at the parting of the Red Sea, or when he received God's Laws on Mount Sinai; but she was indeed a mother who feared God, risked everything to give her son life, and was used of God in a mighty way.

MARY: Jesus's mother, without a doubt, is the most well-known and revered woman in the Bible. The scriptures explain that God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother - granting her one of the most important and transformational roles in human history.

The gospel account in the Book of Luke is quite revealing. It shows the grace with which Mary took the startling news that she would be Christ's mother. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, who was a virgin at the time and betrothed to Joseph. Gabriel told Mary that she was “highly favored” and revealed that she would conceive and bear a son.

Mary questioned how pregnancy was possible and was initially troubled by the angel's appearance. But

once she learned of the reason for Gabriel's visit, she responded to the life-changing news with a heart that was fully open to God's will, by faith as recorded in Luke 1:29-38:

“And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, ‘Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God . . . And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”



Mary's reaction is a lesson in our own lives when we find ourselves faced with a difficult or challenging call from God. In this instance, Mary chose to trust and obey God by faith and faith alone . . . In God her Savior (vs. 47). She forfeited her reputation, and gladly endured the scorn and ridicule of others . . . an unmarried teenager, pregnant, disgraced . . . To bear the One full of grace and truth who would go to the cross for you and me.

Happy Mother's Day!

Pastor Phil



For Every Mother

by Emily Long

Today is indeed, a day of beauty and honoring those amazing women. . .
The ones who loved us and taught us
And gave us what we needed. . .
Each in their very own special way.

And to stop there would be a disservice
for there are so many mothers
who, on this day and many others,
go unrecognized and unacknowledged.

The mother who holds her children
lovingly in her arms,
The mother who held a child in her womb
but never in her arms,
The mother who gave her child life,
then gave her child to be loved by another.

The mother who gently nurtures
and cares for her foster child,
The mother whose child has left home
or is suddenly taken to heaven too soon.

For whatever reason and through no fault of
her own, the mother who has no children
of her own but mothers all the
children she has known.

The mother who shares her amazing love
to her 4-legged children,
The mothers who birth and nurture
Through art and plants and endless love,
And all those I may have neglected to
mention.

For it is you, on this day called
Mother's Day, we honor.



Each one of you who celebrates,
each of you who cries;
those who are acknowledged
and especially those who are often . . .
unseen . . . unnoticed.



For it is you . . .
those seen and unseen,
those forgotten and remembered,
whose love makes the world
all that it can be and
enriches the lives
of us all . . . Happy Mother's Day



Grandma and Me

I like to walk with Grandma,
Her steps are short like mine,
She doesn't say, "Now Hurry Up!"
She always takes her time.
I like to walk with Grandma,
Her eyes see things like mine do
Wee pebbles bright, and funny clouds,
Half hidden drops of dew.
Most people have to hurry,
They do not stop and see.
I'm glad that God made Grandma,
Unrushed and young like me.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously,
but thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:
but a woman that feareth the LORD,
she shall be praised."

- Proverbs 31:28-30 KJV

MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTIONS



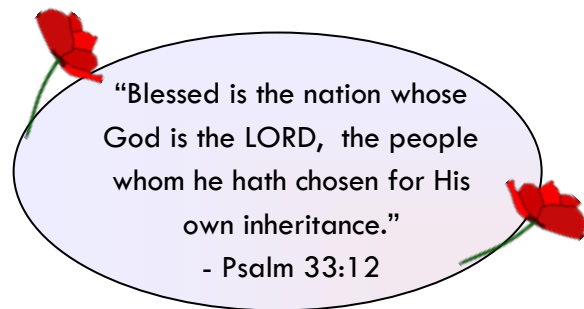
Memorial Day, the federal U.S. holiday that takes place every year on the last Monday of May, began after the Civil War, and at that time was known as “Decoration Day.” While it was originally founded to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War, today, Memorial Day is a day to honor all Americans who have died in military service. Most Americans celebrate the Memorial holiday beginning with a three-day weekend and leisure time at family gatherings or barbecues; however, we solemnly reflect and honor those who have given their lives for our freedom – American heroes and Biblical values that have made our country worth fighting for – one Nation, under God – indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends..” - John 15:13 KJV

*“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.”
— General George S. Patton*

*“It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the organizer,
Who gave us the freedom to demonstrate
It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag.
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.”*

- Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, USMC



“All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother.”

~ Abraham Lincoln

“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

~ Psalm 139: 13-14 KJV

AS A MOTHER...

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. -ISAIAH 66:13 KJV



It is just a year ago that Avalon Grace Church introduced “Grace Tidings” a monthly/bi-monthly newsletter in an effort to stay connected with church family and friends especially in light of the Covid pandemic. I trust you are enjoying the newsletter and that it is a source of edification as well as a means of staying connected. I hope you are passing it along (via email, etc.) to unsaved friends and family. You just never know how the LORD can reach a heart for His glory and for you to introduce the Lord Jesus Christ to someone who may not know Him via the newsletter.

While the state of Florida is relatively open for business as usual compared to other states, it is important to remember that we, as the Body of Christ, no matter what state we live in, we serve the LORD as beacons of light a to lost world.

Sunday worship and gathering together as a body is a sacred time and we miss so many of you. It feels particularly sad not to be gathering for fellowship, bible study, and encouraging each other face-to-face and praying together during these uncertain and challenging times.

However, by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ, connecting via the Avalon website and Youtube virtual listening to Sunday messages, and by reading and studying the Bible rightly divided, we are reminded in God’s Word that “it came to pass” will encourage us during this pandemic as we look for the Lord’s imminent return.

Janet and I hold all of you in our prayers and we are so grateful knowing you hold us and one another in your prayers, asking God’s protection, healing, protection, and His sheltering arms to sustain us.

My prayer is that you are all encouraged and blessed by tuning into Sunday messages as well as enjoying our newsletter and sharing it with others as God leads.

Pastor Phil

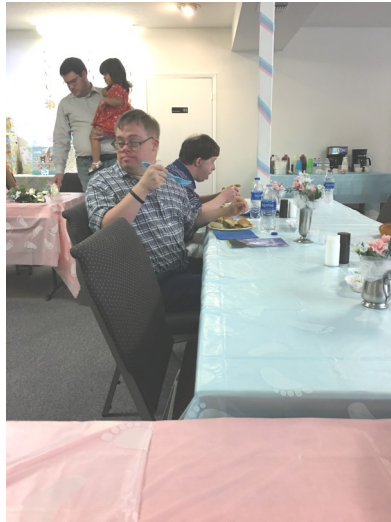
A huge Thank You from Yvonne and Jordan McClellan for the love, good wishes, gifts, and generosity of so many of you as they anticipate the birth of their twin children, Samuel and Sabrina on or before Yvonne’s scheduled “C” section June 8, 2021.



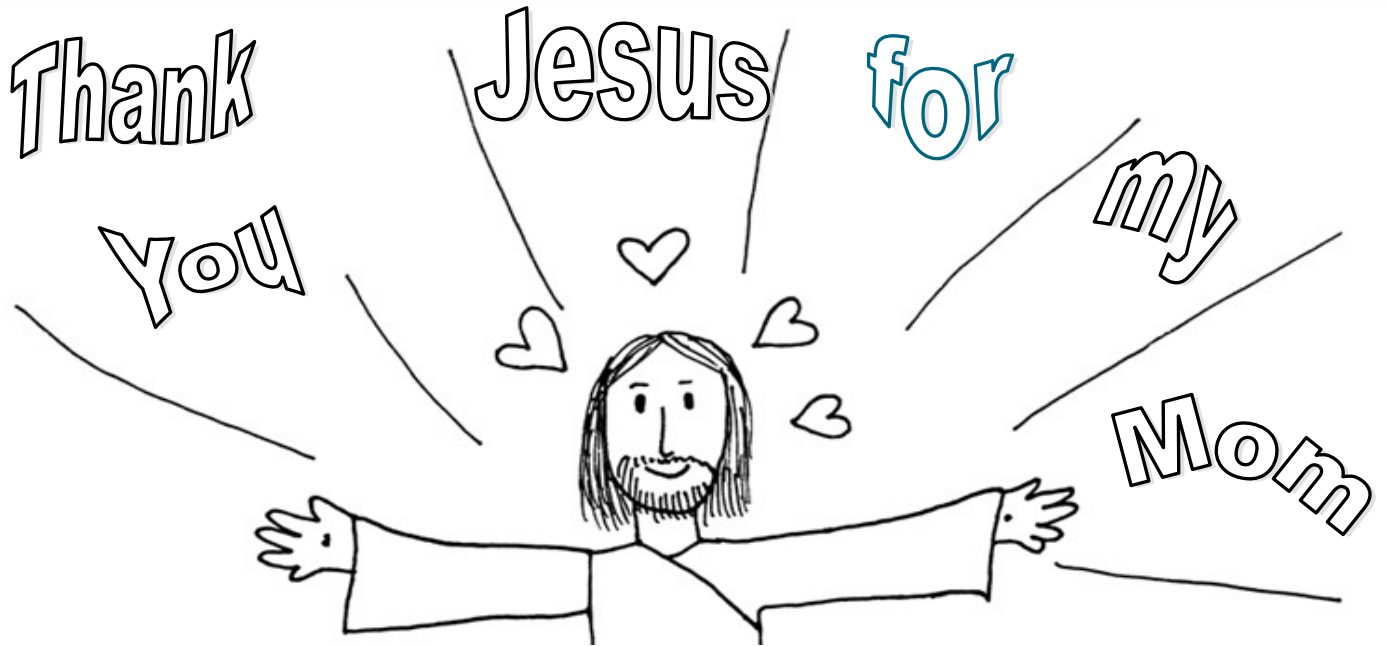
Here are some pictures from Yvonne’s surprise Twin Baby shower held on Sunday, April 25, 2021, directly following the worship service. Little Olivia, who is just two years old was with her grandmother Janet in Sunday School and was the first to see all the decorations and balloons in Fellowship Hall. At first, this little one did not understand what was going on until she was told that we were having a big party for her mama! Then she got all excited and was running all around exploring balloons and the decorations!

Yvonne was completely shocked. She didn’t have a clue! Thank you Jordan for keeping it a surprise!! And what made it more special for Yvonne was that her mom, dad, and sister came from across the state (Miami) to celebrate too! Tears flowed with joy and love! We all had a great time celebrating new lives that are almost here and the love of just knowing Jesus. The food was good and the gentlemen who attended made it all the more fun! Enjoy the pictures!

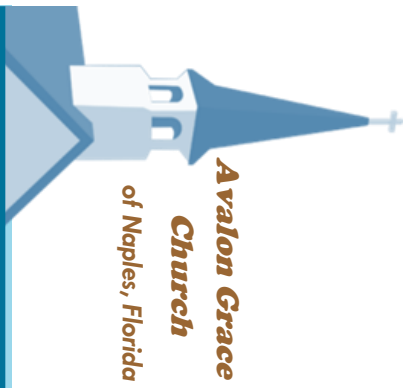




Coloring for Jesus



“Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” - Proverbs 31:28 KJV



May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1



- 1st Emma Stevens
- 5th Jennifer Barrett
- 8th Evie Metts
- 8th Tom Elliott
- 12th Jim Anderson
- 18th Edie O'Neill
- 22nd Cathern Ritter

COMING IN JUNE

- 6th 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast
- 14th Flag Day
- 20th Father's Day

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45 Sunday Breakfast						
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MOTHER'S DAY						
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						



30	31
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