

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

May 2023

## National Day of Prayer - May 4, 2023

The National Day of Prayer comes once a year and is much greater than what we see on the evening news and/or social media; in fact, millions of believers throughout our entire country will gather together praying for our nation, both collectively and individually.

In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution, signed by President Truman, establishing the Annual National Day of Prayer. The law was amended in 1988 and signed by President Ronald Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May. May 4th, 2023 will mark the 72nd Annual National Day of Prayer.

The purpose of this day is to set aside one day, for our country to lift up our nation, to humble itself and that God will move in the hearts of every man, woman, and child to seek godly resolutions for the world's conflicts. The hope is that God will reconcile our nation to Himself and correct the social ills and crimes affecting our nation and local communities.



That is why it is critical to pray daily for our leaders in government: please see **I Timothy 2: 1-15; Romans 13:1-14.**

Many of us see the National Day of Prayer as an opportunity to beseech our LORD to return quickly and catch us up in the clouds to be with HIM forever. Wouldn't that be wonderful!

Until then, the Apostle Paul instructs us to pray for our leaders: "**I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority.**" Please see **I Timothy 2:1-2.**

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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.avaolongracechurch.com)  
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**"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**

## National Day of Prayer, May 4, 2023

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Days of Prayer have a long history in America. Colonists declared Days of Prayer during times of uncertainty, due to British oppression, and Colonists prayed for God's direction in forming a new more perfect union.

On May 24, 1774, Thomas Jefferson drafted a Resolution for a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer to be observed as the British blockaded Boston's Harbor.

On April 15, 1775, just four days before the Battle of Lexington, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, led by John Hancock, declared: *"In circumstances dark as these, it becomes us, as men and Christians, to reflect that, whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments...the 11th of May next be set apart as a Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer...to confess the sins...to implore the Forgiveness of all our Transgression."*

On May 15, 1776, General George Washington ordered: *"The Continental Congress having ordered Friday the 17th instant to be observed as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, humbly to supplicate the mercy of Almighty God, that it would please Him to pardon all our manifold sins and transgressions, and to prosper the arms of the United Colonies, and finally establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation."*


As President George Washington also declared, October 3, 1789: *"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will...and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness'..."*

Clearly, America's beginning was laced with prayer and dependence upon the grace and power of God, His protection and guidance. As America faces challenges from natural disasters, the economy, uncertain times and other trials, one can gain inspiring faith and

example from leaders of the past.

Let us continue to lift each other, our neighbors, and our country up to the Throne of Grace, offering prayers for the U.S. government, the military, state and local governments, law enforcement and firefighters, the economy, education, churches and families—not just on National Day of Prayer but every day as we eagerly await our Savior's return.

- Pastor Phil



**Motherhood is more than a stage -  
it's a lifelong calling from God.  
With it He gives us hearts that love deeply,  
hands that serve tirelessly,  
and vision to see  
His blossoming image  
in the precious ones  
entrusted to our care.  
- Anonymous**

### 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.

## Mother's Day - May 14, 2023



Each year, the second Sunday of May is set aside to honor our mothers by expressing our love, acknowledging all that they have done for us; all that they mean to us and have selflessly sacrificed for us. No doubt, our moms have had a tremendous influence in our lives, our early faith as children, and who we are as individuals today.

***"Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 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: 25-30**

Mother's Day is also a time to remember and cherish those mothers, aunts, sisters, and grandmothers or step-moms that live in our hearts forever.

My own mother, Roseanita, has been with Jesus for almost 44 years. She went to be with the Him in October, 1979 having suffered from Multiple Sclerosis for several years being confined to a hospital bed in our house on Whitaker Avenue in Philadelphia, PA until the LORD gently called her home early one Friday morning. What I remember most about my mom was that she never complained about her portion; she loved Jesus, always extended God's grace, kindness, and forgiveness to others. Time definitely has eased the pain of separation from her, but time

has also faded many memories too.

Praise the Lord for 1960's Kodak Brownie Cameras that captured so many memories when I was a kid. I'm sure you have lots of faded pictures in an old shoebox stored away somewhere on a closet shelf! The technology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was not as sophisticated as the 21<sup>st</sup> century and many of those old "color" Kodak family photos have faded almost into oblivion. Yet the black and white pictures "before the age of color" are as crisp and clear as the day they were taken - Imagine that!!

Isn't it amazing how a certain smell, a word spoken, a picture, or a song can bring back memories and sometimes with it a flood of tears? Talking with family members and reminiscing of stories long ago bring back yesteryear making mom seem nearer as if it were yesterday!

If, like me, your mother is with Jesus, Mother's Day is a special day to remember her. Keep the memories of her alive in your heart and talk about her to her grandchildren. Let them experience her steadfast love, her sense of humor and personality as you recall memories of her and the godly influence she played in your life as you were growing up . . . even if some of her grandchildren never knew her! Keep her memory alive!

The love of a mother for her child mirrors the love of God for His children. From the time of conception (or adoption), there is oneness between mother and child that is sacred in God's eyes. It is a unity that God intends to last until they are separated by death.

For some, Mother's Day (and for that matter Father's Day) isn't always a day to jump for joy!

That's just the way it is in this fallen world for various reasons: a recent death, loss of a child, loss of a mother or grandmother, estrangement, abandonment, abuse, a failed adoption, miscarriage, abortion, infertility, and so on. The reality is, however, not all mother and child relationships weather the storms of this life and many relationships are broken and painful. It's so sad, because broken relationships grieve the heart of God; and, I think, by recognizing such things, the Lord understands these hurting hearts:

***"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."* - Psalm 34: 18-19**

Letting go of life's little annoyances and issues that really don't matter is a great way to honor mom, embracing joy and every wonderful moment with her. Honor and celebrate her! Savor the memories you make today! Have fun with your mom and take pictures!

One day those memories will be all you have...and beautiful memories will be sufficient to fill your cup to overflowing gratefulness for your mom on Mother's Day.

On behalf of Pastor Phil, Janet and the McClellan family, Happy Mother's Day!

Sincerely in Christ, Kathleen Smith



## A Memorial Day Prayer - Monday, May 29, 2023

Dear Heavenly Father,

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day.

We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in service to our nation since 1776.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. We most humbly thank You for all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest in YOU.

We remember also our brave men and women now servicing in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad in foreign lands. Dear Lord, send out your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world.

We ask this, Father, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.



### Quotes for the Wise & Young at Heart:

“A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.” – Washington Irving

“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” – 2 Timothy 1:5

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.” – 1 Thessalonians 2:7

“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.” - Psalm 139:13

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” - Romans 12:2

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 3:13-14

### THOUGHT SORTING

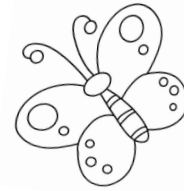
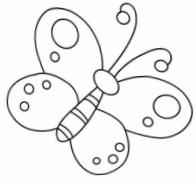
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



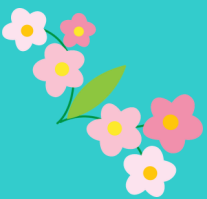
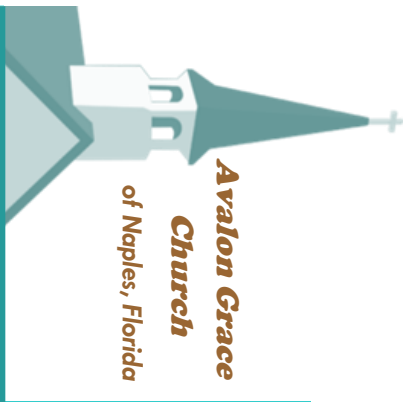
Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- PHILIPPIANS 4:8 KJV

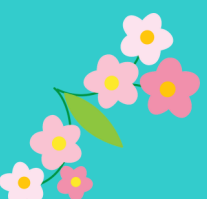
i LOVE YOU  
MOM



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



# May 2023



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5 6

National Day  
of Prayer



- 1st Emma Stevens
- 5th Jennifer Barrett
- 12th Jim Anderson
- 18th Edie O'Neill

**COMING IN JUNE**

- 4th 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast
- 14th Flag Day
- 18th Father's Day

7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
 9:45 AM Breakfast  
 10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
 The LORD'S Supper Observed  
 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

28 29 30 31  
 10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
**MEMORIAL DAY**

