

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, September 20, 2026
Ordinary Time
Liturgical Color: Green
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

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This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Opening Blessing

The blessings of a God who will not be limited. The blessings of the One we know by many names. The blessings of the one who is both mysterious and yet knowable. The blessings of the one who comforts us and stretches us in wisdom and faith. Amen.

Community Prayer

Mother of Creation, we celebrate you and your care for us. We stand in awe of what you have made and what you are making. We know no name can ever fully capture you, but each opens us to a different reality of you. Forgive us if we have spoken of you in ways that are too small, or told others their ways of speaking are wrong for being different. Let us lean into your vastness that we might draw closer and therefore wise. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

God Our Mother - Talking About God 6 Robert McClellan

Incorporating the feminine, particularly the maternal for God is not merely “updating” the faith or appealing to modern sensibilities (though there is nothing wrong with appealing to modern sensibilities). These are ancient and traditional expressions for God in both the Christian faith and other religions as well. We explore this image biblically that we might be stretched by the language we use and as we remember that our language is meant to be a portal to connecting with God not a limit to who and what the infinite God may be.

Scripture(s)

Deuteronomy 32:18
Isaiah 42:14

Isaiah 66:9-13
Psalm 131:1-2
Ruth 2:12
Proverbs 1:20-23
Luke 13:34-35
Luke 15:8-10

Deuteronomy 32:18 - "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you;
you forgot the God who gave you birth."

Isaiah 42:14 - "Now I will cry out like a woman in labor,
I will gasp and pant."

Isaiah 66:9-13 - "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."

Psalm 131:1-2 - "Like a weaned child with its mother,
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me."

Psalm 131

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

Ruth 2:12 - "You have come to take refuge under the wings of the LORD."

Proverbs 1:20-23

20

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.

21

At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

22

"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?"

23

Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

Luke 13:34-35

34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you.[d] And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when[e] you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

Luke 15:8-10

8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Hymns

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us 44

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth 7

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

"As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother."

- Julian of Norwich

1. When/where have you heard of mothering language for God?
2. In what ways may it be helpful language for you/us?
3. How does mother as a title differ from father?
4. What is the vocation of a mother?
5. What do today's scripture passages have to say to your concept of God?