

## **“A Rock of Mothering”**

By Linda Gooley

Sunday, May 10, 2020 (Mother’s Day Reflection)

Happy Mother’s Day

On this Mother’s Day I wish you rocks. I know that sounds a little strange but here comes the why. Everyone needs at least one rock in their life. Maybe not rattling around in their heads but definitely someone in their life who is rock solid and there to lean on in times of difficulty. Hopefully, you all have many of those people in your life that you can turn to when needed. I have many in my life, all for different reasons. Our church is my rock in this turmoil. My husband is my rock in our marriage, Mary Lou is my rock in my daily life. But as a child my rock was my mother. Mothers love their children unconditionally. They start by giving birth to the child then spend the next many years nurturing them into a productive adult. But there are many different types of mothering. Sometimes the mothering doesn’t start until a child is placed in a person’s care. Some fathers do the mothering in their family. Sometimes it’s a grandmother or grandfather or an aunt or nanny. Sometimes it’s even a neighbor that ends up influencing a child to become the person that they grow up to be.

In this Covid 19 world I hope that the adults of today are doing a good job of mothering by setting an example of caring for the collective good rather than the self. I hope that the people who are doing the mothering are using this time as a teaching tool to teach empathy, compassion, selflessness and service.

In our house we still have network television. Because of this we see commercial after commercial of the brave people that are at the frontline of this epidemic. We see on the news the strain that has been put on our health system and the people in it. I wonder if those who no longer watch network television but instead are using Roku or Apple TV really understand what is going on. I know some do daily get the news in other ways and know exactly how it is, but for some the news may not be a part of their world. Maybe this is a time for a little mothering by making sure the information that our children are hearing is complete and true. I was happy to hear that Facebook is doing a little mothering by making sure that videos that are being posted are true and not fake news.

Today on this Mother’s Day most of us won’t be celebrating as we have in the past. We won’t get to do the mothering that we so long for. No in person family gatherings. No hugs from our kids. No patter of little feet running through the house. It’s a sad, and stressful and sometimes lonely time. During this time of stress, we need to remember to lean on our rocks. Lean on the people who mother us in so many different ways. Hold on to our faith and remain rock solid.

Many years ago, I led a service in which I handed out small rocks for people to take home and carry in their pockets or to put somewhere that would remind them of the solid rock that their faith is built on. I would love to do that again today but clearly, that’s not an option. So, for a little something to do I invite you to go outside, safely, and look for a rock that speaks to you. Use it to remind you of what and who has been that rock and has had that mothering influence for you. Keep it in your pocket and when you are feeling down or anxious reach in and feel the hardness of it, the solidness of it and let it remind you of all the people that have been that mothering rock for you in your life. Maybe it was and still is your actual mother or maybe it is your father, sister, brother, wife, husband or friend. Or maybe it’s this church and your faith that keeps you grounded. Just as Psalm 31 said “You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me.”

So, find a rock and hold on to it both figuratively and literally and remember your mothering rocks.

Happy Mother’s Day

Amen