

Dear Friends,

You will not hear a lot about Mother's Day from me in the pulpit on Sunday, because it is not a "church" or liturgical day and it is a day that can be hard for many: women who have lost a child either before or after birth, women who have had to give up children for adoption, parents of adopted children who seek out "real (birth) parents" and feel abandoned, all who have had abusive parents, all who are estranged from mothers or those who have mothered them, all who grieve the recent death of their mothers, and the list goes on...



I share with you here a "happy" Mother's Day story from my family. My grandmother, Ada (née Rider) Scott, was blessed to attend the first acknowledged Mother's Day worship service with her mother, Lula Belle, at the Methodist church in Grafton, WV on May 10, 1908. She was 21 years old and not yet married to my grandfather. The organizer, Anna Jarvis, sent 500 white carnations and said this about the symbolism, " Its whiteness is to symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

Today, that church building is known as the International Mother's Day Shrine.

All persons are not so blessed as to have received such pure love from their mothers or parents, and so, today, I pray that all may come to know God's agape love, which is the ideal to which we can all aspire. For those who have had selfless mothers, for those who are such mothers or mother figures, for those who will one day love so selflessly, I give thanks!

Have a blessed week,

Pastor Leigh

"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19