



The Mother of Mother's Day

Julia Ward Howe is rightfully considered the Mother of Mother's Day in 1870 even though the day would not be officially recognized as a national holiday until Anna Jarvis pushed for this with a campaign starting in 1907. Julia Ward Howe is best known for having written the poem, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. But in 1870, distressed by the horror of the Civil War and fearful of a world war, Julia Howe called upon other women to arise and oppose war in all forms. Her call was for "A Mother's Day of Peace".

Her Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 read in part:

Arise, then, Christian women of this day!

Say firmly:

"Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs." From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: "Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Read her entire proclamation at:

www.councilofchurches-scc.org/mothersday

From today's lectionary reading I John 4:7-21 – There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear... The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.



Council of Churches
Santa Clara County



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