



May 6, 2026

Celebrating mums in the Bible who struggled, just like us

Words by FIONA TEH

When my colleague raised the brilliant idea of looking to mums in the Bible as we celebrate Mother's Day, I didn't think it was going to go this way.

But reviewing the list of women I could feature, it quickly became obvious that many mothers in the Bible had it bad. I'm glad the Bible records these stories. It can otherwise be easy to think that our situations are unique, or our circumstances cannot ever be redeemed. These women show us that grace covers a whole lot, even if it doesn't always take away the pain that seems so inextricably woven into some of our pasts.

In this sampling of mothers from biblical times, we delve into the life stories of four women who each have something to teach us.

LEAH

They said she had "weak eyes" – whatever that means – but her sister Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful ([Genesis 29:17](#)). We're told in quite some detail how much Jacob desired Rachel, but guess who also ends up being married to Jacob? It's Leah.

What's the woman to do in such a humiliating, loveless marriage? Leah thought that having a son might change things. The last five verses in chapter 29 is an emotional insight into Leah's world as the lesser-loved wife. She named her first three sons Reuben, Simeon and Levi. The Hebrew meaning of their names alludes to a mother's longing to be *seen* and *desired* by her husband.

Leah knew that God had seen her misery ([Genesis 29:32](#)) and gave her Reuben. She thought that bearing Jacob's firstborn would earn her his love. But even when Jacob did not, God loved her. And blessed her with children. God saw *more* than her misery; God saw Leah when she thought nobody did.

BATHSHEBA

Though she was also King Solomon's mother, Bathsheba is perhaps more well-known as the woman King David lusted after. His affections cost Bathsheba greatly and terribly. David slept with Bathsheba, and later ordered the murder of her husband, so that he could marry her to cover up the scandal.

Even though David displayed true repentance for his wrongdoing ([2 Samuel 12:13](#), Psalm 51), there were still consequences. The son born to the couple would die.

In spite of her tragic ordeals, Bathsheba persevered as a survivor and raised their second son Solomon, whom the Lord loved. Bathsheba also became one of the four women who were honoured in the genealogy of Jesus ([Matthew 1:6](#)).

ELIZABETH

Barren until she was "well along in years", Elizabeth was the wife of a priest named Zechariah. Both she and her husband were descendants of Aaron – Israel's first high priest – and were noted by the author Luke to be "righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly" ([Luke 1:6](#)).

However, infertility was a real stigma back in those days and associated as a sign of disfavour ([Deuteronomy 7:12-14](#)). Elizabeth felt the shame but held on to her faith all those long years before an angel would tell Zechariah that they would have a son named John. Like Old Testament legend Sarah – who also had her son in old age – Zechariah had his doubts. But we don't read about Elizabeth's doubt anywhere. Perhaps Elizabeth had recalled Abraham and Sarah's experience ([Genesis 21:2](#)), and developed faith that God could do it for her too.

MARY

The most famous mum in the Bible, Jesus's earthly mother didn't have it easy.

Just imagine what it took for a virgin girl to tell her fiancé that you're going to deliver the baby in your belly because He is the awaited Saviour of your people ([Luke 1:26-38](#)). The social pressure!

Years later, Mary also had to grapple with the death of her firstborn. Her heart must have been so terribly broken at Calvary ([John 19:25](#)). Even if she had clues about her future ([Luke 2:34-35](#)), she still had to walk her eldest of five sons from the cradle to the cross. Such was her devotion to God, that it prompted willing and humble obedience. There isn't a human story without sadness or mess – even in blessed Mary's – because we live in a fallen world that's marred by sin. But with God, He can weave threads of salvation into our stories.

***This Mother's Day, we honour all with a mother's heart and we're praying for you:
Mothers-to-be. New mothers. Single mothers. Widowed mothers.
Those yearning to be a mother. Those who didn't become a mother by choice.
Mothers who are winning. Mothers who are struggling. Mothers who've lost a child.
We pray that you'll remember that God is still writing your story.***

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers. May God bless you all.



Worship Calendar

May 10	Many Roads, One Way	John 14:1-14	Rev. Eric Lee
May 17	God with Us – and in Us	John 14:15-27	Rev. Eric Lee
May 24	The Wild Wonder of Pentecost	Matthew 28:18-20 Acts 2:1-21	Rev. Eric Lee
May 31	More than an Observer	John 3:1-17	Rev. Eric Lee
June 7	Communion		



NEWS AND

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Awareness Sunday

It was with great pleasure that we all got to hear Dwan Billings deliver a most inspiring talk about the effects that Hurricane Melissa had on the Island of Jamaica as well as on her own family. The photos showed the devastation that was wrought on this beautiful island and on the attempts at rebuilding the infrastructure as well as the vegetation. It was also a time of celebration as we got to wish her young son, Shayden a very happy birthday with a lovely birthday cake. Many thanks go out to the Mission Team for organizing the entire worship service. You did yourselves proud.



Common Scents

Please be advised that our church has a scent-free protocol. It seems that some of our dear parishioners feel unwell due to heavy floral smells. Please be considerate of those in our congregation who are affected by strong smells and odors and refrain from perfumes or colognes when coming to worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you one and all.

A Spring Devotional Update (March 22)

A **new** edition of **These Days** (April/May/June), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (March/April/May) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

Coffee Sign-Up

It is that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to serve coffee and tea after worship. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Adamson Lounge.

May 10 – **No one has signed up for this day.**

May 17 - Carol & Iris

May 24 - Margaret & Robyn

May 31 _____

Thank you to all of you who have given so willingly of your time and efforts. We appreciate you!!



PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

* Pray for the people of war-torn countries (Iran, Ukraine,) who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times. Pray for our country, Canada.

* Pray for **Ali Tavosoli's** family who resides in Iran.

* **Also, please keep these people in your prayers:**

Viralyn Goolcharan, Ethel Waite, Glen DeLine, Shirley Pollock's daughter Nancy, Ruth Ann Ross, Bob Woolley, Giulietta Ponzini, Ryan Jory, Harold Hussey, Teresia Njoki, Roman and Adrian P., Ed Lattimore, Margaret Munene's brother Simon, Lenore Carty, Sheila Thomas' grandson, Carter, the Jarvis family (Wayne, Shannon and Dale), Olive S.

Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor...could you please advise me from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.



"Mother's Day"

by Carol Matthews

*A Mother loves right from the start.
She holds her baby close to her heart.
The bond that grows will never falter.
Her love is so strong it will never alter.
A Mother gives never ending Love.
She never feels that she has given enough.
For you she will always do her best.
Constantly working, there's no time to rest.
A Mother is there when things go wrong.
A hug and a kiss to help us along.
Always there when we need her near.
Gently wipes our eyes when we shed a tear.
So on this day shower your Mother with Love.
Gifts and presents are nice but that is not enough.
Give your Mother a day to have some peace of mind.
Be gentle, be good, be helpful, be kind.
Happy Mother's Day.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome to walk and enjoy Centennial Park
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Tuesday, May 19 @ 6:30 PM – Session Meeting
- * Friday, Sept. 11 @ 2:00 PM – Music & Worship meeting



Prayer/Reader/Announcements for 2026

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
May 10	Maureen Screen	Chris Parr	Susan Chopp
May 17	Pastor Eric	Susan Chopp	Iris Lee
May 24	Koko Ikele	Chuka Ikele	Bob Twynam

May 31	Nancy McPherson	Jean Fox	Iris Lee
June 7	Pastor Eric	Maureen Screen	Kathy Twynam
June 14	Kathy Twynam	Margaret Munene	Nancy McPherson
June 21	Halyna Parypa	Georgena Engineer	Susan Chopp
June 28	Pastor Eric	Bob Twynam	Iris Lee



"My Heart"

by Sharlynn N. Manning

She's always been there for me.

Just talking to her can make me happy.

She tells me of the hard times she's been through

In hopes that I won't go through them, too.

She's an independent woman of stature and grace.

She has beautiful eyes and a lovely face,

An audacious strength from deep inside.

In her I know I can confide.

She's my guardian angel who'll always be

A very special part of me.

She takes pride in caring for her kin.

She gives us hope and things to believe in.

If I didn't have her there for me,

I wouldn't be half the woman I turned out to be.



WEEKLY SMILE



"YOU MIGHT WANNA PULL UP A CHAIR.
I'VE HAD A PRETTY BUSY DAY."



Where to Find Us

Contact Person	Email Address	Phone Number	Role/Note
Susan Chopp	choppertini@hotmail.com	416-953-7582	Weekly News
Pastor Eric	pastor@graceview.ca	416-621-0888 (press #1)	Church related issues
Church Office (Halyna)	office@graceview.ca		Church Secretary
Dr. Glen DeLine	delineglen@gmail.com	905-849-0388	Music Director
Graceview Website	https://graceview.ca/calendar-events		
Facebook Page	Graceview Presbyterian Church		
Instagram Page	https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5YTYyN2ly		

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 Mission Awareness Sunday Dwan Billings	4	5 Walking Group 11:00	6	7 Service @ CPP 2:00	8	9
10 Many Roads, One Way Rev. Eric Lee Mother's Day	11	12 *Walking Group 11:00 *Craft Club	13	14 Service @ CPP 2:00	15	16
17 God with Us – and in Us Rev. Eric Lee	18	19 *Walking Group 11:00 *Session 6:30	20	21 Service @ CPP 2:00	22	23
24 The Wild Wonder of Pentecost Rev. Eric Lee	25	26 Walking Group 11:00	27	28 Service @ CPP 2:00	29	30
31 More than an Observer Rev. Eric Lee						

