

ASSURING SPIRIT*

The Holy Spirit “bears witness” that we belong to Him. God assures us we are His beloved people.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Isaiah 43:1–7 Isaiah 49:14–16; 66:13 Matthew 11:25–30 John 14:16–18 Romans 8:12–17 (16) Ephesians 3:14–19	Arise, My Soul, Arise Be Not Afraid (Davis) SATB Be Still, My Soul Blessed Assurance Gentle Voice (Dengler) SATB & SSA Hiding in Thee I Am Thine, O Lord I Need Thee Every Hour I Surrender All My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness Nearer, Still Nearer Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (PS103) You Are Always Good



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Theme corresponds well with **Mother’s Day**.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

A MOTHER'S ACTS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8:12-17; Isaiah 66:13 | The Holy Spirit “bears witness” that we belong to God – that we are loved, that we are His people. This assurance is not just assurance of the benefits we have in salvation, but an assurance of relationship, an assurance that says, “You are mine.” It is the comforting aspect of the Holy Spirit’s role.

A mother is a beautiful picture of this attribute. A mother assures, and reassures, her children. She does this in many ways. The child recognizes her love for him and is reminded that that he belongs to her.

Interview children's church kids with the following question: “What does your mom do that reminds you that she loves you?” (Some extra questions and prodding may be required in order to get answers about mothers' reassurance, over simple love.) Gather their answers, distill them in a simple slide visuals list (including each child's name), and relate the responses to the assurance of God and His Spirit in Romans 8:12-17 and Isaiah 66:13.

Promotional Post: Many a mother has a knack for reminding her child she loves them. In just the right way at just the right time, she assures her child: “You belong to me. I love you.” This Sunday (Mother’s Day), we worship the Holy Spirit for that same kind of assurance He offers us: that we are God’s beloved child.

These passages can help you prepare for worship: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

[Talk congenially through the interview process and the collected responses.]

- “[She makes us food]” (6 children).
- “She brings me to my games” (Sebastian, 11).
- “She comes to my games” (Joshua, 12).
- “She helps me when I need help putting something away” (Anaya, 8).
- “She helps me when I’m sick” (Samuel, 12).
- “She pays for me to go to school” (Abel, 7).
- “She teaches me for homeschool” (Ashton, 10).
- “One time when I was sad I couldn’t go to a birthday party, she gave me a hug” (Riley, 7).
- “She punishes me so I can learn” (Caleb, 8).
- “She punishes me when I’m naughty” (Micah, 8).
- “She tucks me in every night” (Danielle, 8).
- “When I fall at school, she asks what happened. If it’s bleeding, she gives me a Band-Aid” (R’eaya, 7).
- “When I feel lonely, she comes and talks to me about it” (Josephine, 11).

- “When someone is being mean to me, she tries to stop it” (Nate, 11½).

Romans 8 tells us that the Holy Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s.” This kind of reassurance is technically unnecessary—just like a mother telling her child that she loves them. We see God in the Old Testament speak this same kind of reassurance—even in the middle of foretelling His discipline for their sin.

Many mothers have a knack for this kind of reassurance. A touch at just the right moment, the tight squeeze after the correction, just the right snack when homework is taking too long, taking the child’s hand when the crowd is getting noisy. These acts remind the child of the unchanged relationship between the mother and child.

And God through His Word and Holy Spirit gives us that same kind of assurance. That’s what we are worshipping Him for today. Are you remembering a moment like that, of reassurance from God of your relationship with Him, of His unchanging love for you? You didn’t technically need it—He was caring for you, even without that touch. But He gave you that gentle assurance to remind you: “You are my child. You are precious to me.”