Loving and Creating God,

We pray today for all those willing to be faithful in motherhood and beyond—for their nurture, love, and sacrifice. Whether it be their own children or young ones they have adopted in love—these acts mirror your own image, Lord.

We pray for all these God—these caregivers,

The ones who have been called to care for the little ones,

The ones who may be discouraged today,

We pray for those who are tired and stressed,

For those who struggle to find a balance in caring for others and caring for self,

We pray for those who are called to mother others but are limited due to poverty or circumstance.

We pray for those maternal figures who care for those with disabilities.

We pray for those mothers who must care for children they did not ask for.

We pray for those who have reached out to nurture and then lost one under their care,

For those whose little ones have left home,

For those whose little ones have lost their way,

For those whose little ones are now with you, Lord.

And we pray for those whose desire to be a mothering caregiver has not yet been fulfilled.

We also lift up the children of all ages who may be grieving the loss of a mother either through death or abandonment. Today can be a difficult day for them as well and we ask for a peace that passes all understanding for every child remembering this loss today.

Help us all to remember the way you lovingly parent us with your love divine,

 your abounding, gracious, and excelling love.

And help us all to see an opportunity to love a little one with a love that can only come from you.

In the name of the one who nurtures and loves us and formed us in our mother’s womb; Amen.

Written by Kerrie Jordan, inspired by thoughts shared by Robbie Byrd at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church on Mother’s Day, 2009