

The Founder of Mothers' Day
Julia Ward Howe's
Mothers' Day Proclamation (1870)

Arise, then, women of this day!

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies.

Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have taught them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another 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.

Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesars but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Romans 16:1-16

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchrea. Welcome her, in the name of our God, in a way worthy of the holy ones, and help her with her needs. She has looked after a great many people, including me. Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila; they were my coworkers in the service of Christ Jesus, and even risked their lives for my sake. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Remember me also to the congregation that meets in their house. Greetings to my beloved Epaenetus; he is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

My greetings to Mary, who has worked hard for you, and to Andronicus and Junia, my kin and fellow prisoners; they are outstanding apostles, and they were in Christ even before I was.

Greetings to Ampliatus, who is dear to me in Christ; to Urbanus, our coworker in the service of Christ; and to my beloved Stachys. Greetings to Apelles, who has endured such trials for Christ.

Greetings to those who belong to the household of Aristobulus; greetings to my relative Herodian.

Greetings to the sisters Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who work hard for our God; greetings to my friend Perisis who has done so much for our God. Greetings to Rufus, chosen in our God, and to his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. Greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and all the others with them. Greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister and Olympas, and all the holy ones with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send you greetings.

Luke 11:27-28

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!"

"Rather," Jesus replied, 'blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"