To those who gave birth this year to their first child—

We celebrate with you.

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—

We celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year—

We mourn with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones everyday (and wear the badge of food stains to prove it)—

We appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, stillbirth, failed adoptions, or the untimely death of children—

We weep with you.

To those who are foster moms, soccer mom, mentor mom, and spiritual moms—

We need you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with uncertainty, tears, and disappointment—

We walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—

We rejoice with you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—

We rejoice with you.

To those who have distant and strained relationships with your children—

We sit with you.

To those who have lost their mothers—

We remember them and you on this day.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—

We acknowledge your experience.

To those who have lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—

We are better for having you in our midst.

To those who wish they were moms and find this day difficult—

We value you.

To those who step-parent—

We journey with you on these complex paths.

To those who will have empty nests in the upcoming year—

We grieve with you and we rejoice with you.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—

We anticipate with you.

<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u>

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u>

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u>

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God is

God is compassionate and gracious.

God is slow to anger and abounding in love.

God is holy, holy, holy.

God is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow.

God is completely trustworthy.

God is full of grace and truth.

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> God is holy (distinct, set apart, a cut above)

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Exodus 15:11

Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Isaiah 6:1-8 – "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

God is holy (distinct, set apart, a cut above)

> Isaiah confesses his own sin

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- Isaiah confesses his own sin before addressing the sins of others

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Faith in Jesus teaches me to look in and to look out – to look in at what's wrong with me and to look out to serve others. This goes against my typical proclivity to look out at what's wrong with others and to look in to serve myself.

<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u> – "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

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- God is holy (distinct, set apart, a cut above)
- Isaiah confesses his own sin before addressing the sins of others

 God's holy response is not automatic condemnation but a gracious initiation of healing

Romans 8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Who then is the one who condemn? **No one**. Christ Jesus who died – and more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God interceding for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Psalm 35

My soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in his salvation. With every bone in my body I will praise the Lord.

Who can compare with you? Who else rescues the helpless from the strong? Who else protects the helpless and the poor from those who rob them?

Revelation 4:8

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.