

# FAITH matters

May 5, 2025

## A Call for Mother's Day, 2025



Julie Ward Howe, 1819-1910

Julia Ward Howe, author of *"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"*, was a passionate abolitionist who had seen the brutality of slavery and the carnage of the Civil War. In 1870, she began a campaign for a *"Mother's Peace Day"*, one of the precursors of our American Mother's Day. Her impassioned proclamation was a call to end the bloodshed of war. Perhaps it still speaks to the violence of our day:

*"Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of 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 been  
able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of  
one country will be too tender of those of another country 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, "The sword 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 solemnly take counsel with  
each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live  
in peace, each learning after his own time, the sacred impress, not  
of Caesar, but of God."*

With the on-going violence of war in Ukraine or Gaza, the agony of hunger and poverty in parts of Africa, and the pain of mass deportation in America, perhaps this Mother's Day should be a time for rededication to justice and peace, remembering Jesus who wept over the city of Jerusalem saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace."

Perhaps that would be a better gift for Mother's Day than candy.

~Written by Jack Harnish

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