

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

ARISING

AN UNCOMMON MOTHER

Scripture Reading 2 Timothy 1:3–5

FROM THE SERMON

An example of genuine faith

A nurturer of an eternal being with an eternal purpose

You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe. It's important to think about what you'll be doing in 10,000 years and to prepare for this now!

Dallas Willard

I spent years wearing suit jackets, directing camera crews and controlling high-end edit systems before I had a kid and dropped headlong into the vomit-laced mess of motherhood. Three years later, I had another child, and then two more in the space of three years -- the last of whom was conceived six months after a "successful" vasectomy. The pregnancy was so unexpected that I made it halfway through before I even knew I was pregnant. The news produced the same shock and tremor as a meteor crashing through my kitchen window. I was not prepared to parent four children ages 6 and under. Three months in, I'm still reeling. I feel a deep obligation to care for my children in these young years, but I also miss the workplace -- the collegiality, the productivity and the dignity of

a clear identity. The fact that I chose to stay home doesn't necessarily make it easier. I find myself in a state of persistent stress and feel more sympathy now for why women stick their heads in ovens, divorce their husbands for no apparent reason or drop their kids at an orphanage. Caretaking is difficult. It's an invisible, often monotonous job that requires tremendous fortitude and discipline. Although I might take flak for saying this, I often take care of my kids out of principle, not desire, and have to remind myself daily that what I do is perhaps one of the most important vocations available to me: I'm raising eternal beings for eternal purposes ... Mothers across the globe are imbued with the extraordinary potential to nurture crucial bonds with their kin, and the degree to which we affirm that motherhood is the degree to which our families and communities thrive.

Andrea Palpant Dilley

A profile in courage