

Christian Family Sunday/Mother's Day (4th Sunday of Easter)

May 8, 2022

Prelude

Welcoming

Lighting the Christ Candle

On this Christian Family Sunday, we are called to celebrate relationships: mothers, grandmothers, and all those of every gender who nurture us.

Our God is a God of relationship who seeks us out and longs for us to connect with others and with all of creation.

Let us gather in the light of Christ to celebrate all of the loving relationships that shape and bless our lives.

Call to Worship

Come, mothers and those who mother!

Come, all who have mothers—

through birth, adoption, or fostering, or simply by being taken under the wing of someone with a kindly, mothering soul.

Come, those for whom today is difficult and confusing, those for whom today brings anger or grief.

Today we worship in music and prayer the God who loves us with a maternal love beyond anything we could ask for or imagine, beyond what we hope.

Come, let us worship God.

Opening Hymn: Psalm 100 (Make a Joyful Noise) Voices United 820

Words: Linnea Good 1991

Music: Linnea Good 1991; arr. David Kai 1994

Words and music © 1991 Borealis Music. Arrangement © 1994 David Kai.

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Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*
- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*
- 3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Opening Prayer

Loving God, you are a refreshing cool breeze on a hot day.

You are warm sunshine after the rains.

You are the plants just peeping up in the garden and fields.

You are the fawn, calf, or lamb innocently frolicking in pastures.

You are a hug on a bad day.

You are a surprise note in our mailbox.

Loving God, you are our hope and joy, our refuge and relief, our grace and mercy, our Loving Shepherd.

In our lives and all over the world, we are experiencing pain and loss, confusion and disappointment.

We are desperate, fearful, embarrassed, and struggling.

Show us the answers.

Grant us wisdom.

Give us the hope.

**Help us to live full, faith-filled lives, reminded daily of your love and of the good around us, reminding others by our faithful living that you are our hope and joy, our refuge and relief, our grace and mercy, our Loving Shepherd.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Recognition of Mrs. Patricia Louise Shumka as Music Director Emerita

Scripture Readings

Christian Scripture (New Testament): Acts 9:36-42

Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament): Psalm 23

Christian Scripture (New Testament): Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17

Gospel Reading: John 10:27-30

Reflection: The Maternal Face of God

Hymn of the Day: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (Voices United 375)

Words and Music: James K. Manley, 1975

Words and Music © 1978 James K. Manley

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Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the
valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. *Refrain*

- 2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.
Refrain

- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world
was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush
of the wind. *Refrain*

- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

Invitation to Offering

As we are blessed by the God of wonder and love, let us share the gifts we have received in blessing to others.

Let us commit ourselves to acts of love, as we continue to worship God through the presentation of our offering.

Offering Prayer

Loving Shepherd, we thank you for your tender care.

Everything we have comes from the goodness of your love.

Bolstered by your love, let the Christ-light shine through us, nurturing our souls even as it builds and strengthens our congregation.

Receive and bless the labours of our community of faith and bless the sharing of these gifts.

Allow this offering to entwine us with other communities, that all of our spirits may grow.

Take these gifts for Mission and Service and use them to enrich our global community, nurturing all of humanity as only you can.

Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Parting Hymn: **Be Thou My Vision** (Voices United 642)

*Words: Irish ca. 8th century; trans. Mary Elizabeth Bryne 1905;
vers. Eleanor H. Hull 1912, alt.*

Music: Irish traditional melody

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- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Benediction

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

We lie down in green pastures and drink from still waters.

Our shepherd restores our souls.

**Even though we walk through the darkest valleys, we fear no evil,
for our shepherd travels with us.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

And we will dwell with our shepherd forever.

Postlude

*Great is the Lord – Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith
Arr. by Stan Pethel*

Worship Leaders – Bill Cantelon and Nancy Walker

Music Leader – James Yi

Vocalists – Peggy Dayton and Lorne Holland

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Scripture Reading – Joan Young

Spirit Kids Program – Nancy Walker

Technical Support – Rob Glenn and Bob Krueckl

Fellowship Time – Elaine Zandee and Friends

Flowers for the service are offered by Lois Steeves
in celebration of the life of her husband, John Steeves.