



“Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . .
how often have I desired to
gather your children together as as mother hen
gathers her brood under her wings.”
Matthew 23:37

May 12, 2024, 9:00AM

7th Sunday of Easter/ Mother’s Day Sunday

*In the spirit of Christ,
to love, to nurture, and to serve
one another, our communities and the world.*

Welcome to worship this Sunday! Wherever you are, God is present with you.
Let us now move from getting where we are to being present where we are, as we worship God.

PRELUDE

J. Andre

Allegretto Grazioso

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonas Hayes

* Please rise in body or spirit

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sandy Finstuen

Leader: O God, Source of Being, home of every restless heart: you have loved us from the start.

People: O God, we praise your name forever.

Leader: You are central to our lives and you offer us true joy and peace.

People: We come together as your body - the Body of Christ - to share our stories, tears, and laughter. Thank you for leading us, nurturing us, and loving us.

Leader: Mother, Brother, holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son, we praise your name.

People: O God, empower us to share your life, your passion, your word of a world made new.

*** OPENING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 3, vs. 1-3, tune, AUSTRIAN HYMN (81)

Womb of Life and Source of Being

**1 Womb of life and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.**

**2 Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life and Death of Death,
risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.**

**3 Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us; aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master,
free for love and unity.**

A MOTHER'S DAY LITANY

Sandy Finstuen

Leader: Like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly, you push us to stretch our wings and risk falling, yet you do not abandon us, but lift us up protecting us from evil.

People: **We thank you, O God.**

Leader: Like a mother bear, furious when her cubs are in danger, you bring justice on those who oppress the young.

People: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: Your Spirit comforts us as one whom a mother comforts.

People: **We thank you, mothering God.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, you are everywhere the Lord and Giver of life. We praise you for the gift of mothers through whom you give us life.

People: **We thank you for their willingness to nurture life, for their trust in you to guide them through the labor of childbirth, the uncertainties of youth, the letting go of young adulthood.**

Leader: We thank you for all those women, who did not give us birth, but through whom you give us abundant life.

People: **We thank you for school teachers, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, pastors, elders, Sunday school teachers, supervisors, and friends who share wisdom.**

Leader: We ask your tender mercies on all those whole mothers now sing with the heavenly chorus, for those whose tears are not yet dry.

People: **Grant them your peace, which passes understanding.**

Leader: We pray for those who are alienated from their mothers by harsh words, distance, misunderstanding.

People: **Grant them your grace to forgive and love again.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who work but cannot earn enough to feed and clothe and educate their children.

People: **Wake us to our responsibility for common welfare.**

Leader: We pray for all mothers and thank you and are grateful for all who have shared their compassionate love with us on life's journey.

People: **We thank you, God.**

SILENT PRAYERS AND CONFESSIONS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: As Jesus tells us, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light, in me you will find rest for your souls." Siblings in Christ, receive the Good News of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Leader: Let us now rise in body or spirit and share Christ's peace and compassion with one another. Peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*** SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE & COMPASSION**

SONG OF RESPONSE

Hymnal No. 760, vs. 1, 2 & 6

Bring Many Names

**1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna!
Bring many names!**

**2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God!**

**6 Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:27

God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

COME AS A CHILD

Carolyn Blocker

CALL TO OFFERING

Jonas Hayes

OFFERTORY

J.M. Schafer

Maestoso

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jonas Hayes

A READING FROM LITERATURE

Marcia Tyra

An Excerpt from *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*
Written by Alice Walker

ANTHEM

Janie Oliver

Love is a Special Thing

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

SERMON

Jonas Hayes

Stitching Together in God’s Love

*Ain’t I a woman? Yes, I am! In the words of Sojourner Truth
Delivered by Deaka McClain*

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

Jonas Hayes

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 324, vs. 1-3

For All the Faithful Women

**1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.**

**2 We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh’s vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi’s God till death.**

**3 We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.**

*** CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Jonas Hayes

*** RESPONSE**

Benediction

Stan DeWitt

POSTLUDE

Postlude

W. Wolstenholme

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