



Order of Service for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *God's Eye is On the Sparrow*

Peter Black

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit (please stand)

This is the Day

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Call to Worship

Psalm 66

Reader: Jeremy Lund

One: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard.

Many: God has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

One: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

Many: We went through fire; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

One: Come and hear, all you who love God, and I will tell what God has done for me.

Many: I cried aloud to God, and God has listened to the words of my prayer.

One: Blessed be our God, because God has not rejected our prayers.

Many: God's love for us remains steadfast. Blessed be our God.

Amen,

***Opening Hymn,**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

(Black New Century Hymnal No.583)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, today we celebrate mothers everywhere -- biological mothers, adoptive mothers, caregivers and mentors. We celebrate Mother Nature in all her glory and the Divine Feminine in us, too. Motherly spiritual qualities contribute to peace, healing and joy in the world and in our lives. We are grateful today for those who have nurtured, held, comforted and lifted us up. Thank you, O Mother God, for the mothers in our lives and for the feminine spiritual qualities present in both females and males that enrich our lives and our world. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Passing the Peace

Metta Prayer

May I be at peace. May my heart remain open.

May I awaken to the light of my own true nature.

May I be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

May we be at peace. May our hearts remain open.

May we awaken to the light of our own true nature.

May we be healed and be a source of healing for all beings.

Words of Integration & Guidance

by Yolanda Pierce

Long before I became familiar with the academic debates concerning calling God “Mother,” (debates that I am now currently a part of as a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary), I was being raised in a household where I instinctively understood that the divine presence was manifest in the loving hands and arms of mothers, and most especially in the life of my grandmother who raised me. I knew that if God was real, if God truly loved me as a parent loves a child, then God was also “Mother” and not only “Father.” Only years of dogma and doctrine force you to unlearn what you know to be true in your own heart, demanding “Father” as the only acceptable appellation and concept for God, but we do not have to choose only one form of address. God is Creator and Sustainer. God is Protector and Defender. God is Mother and Father. If we are humble, we know that human words and metaphors are incomplete and can never do justice to describing the majesty of who God is. I am among the millions of women facing Mother’s Day without a mother, and now without my precious grandmother. Though gone from my life, though absent from my everyday reality, my grandmother’s presence and wisdom are still here with me, guiding and shaping me. As a Christian, it is the same as my relationship with God: the knowledge that I am loved by the Divine. I understand God as Mother because of all the mothers, aunties, grandmothers, godmothers, and church mothers who were made in the image of God and who embody God’s loving care. As the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich eloquently summarized, “As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother.”

Witness of Love

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Acts 17:22-31

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“God, Our Mother” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology**

Alleluia, Give Thanks

Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.

Spread the good news o’er all the earth, Jesus has died and is risen.

Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia give praise to our God.

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: *We lift them up to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: *It is good to give God thanks & praise*

***Creation's Praise** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy, God ruler almighty.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.

Blessed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *A Communion Hymn*

This we do in remembrance of You, this we do to honor you; Oh-h-h-h--

This we do in remembrance of You, because you have bid us to.

(Repeat after verse)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. *Amen.*

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. *Amen.*

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, 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 trespasses, as we forgive

those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

***Hymn of Sending**

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

(Black New Century Hymnal No.441)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Benediction

Postlude

You Raise Me Up

Peter Black

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

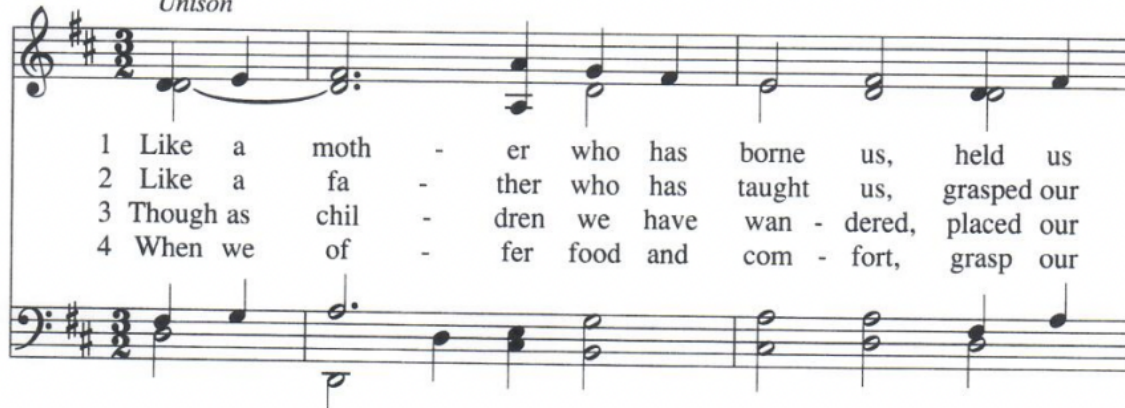
Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

583

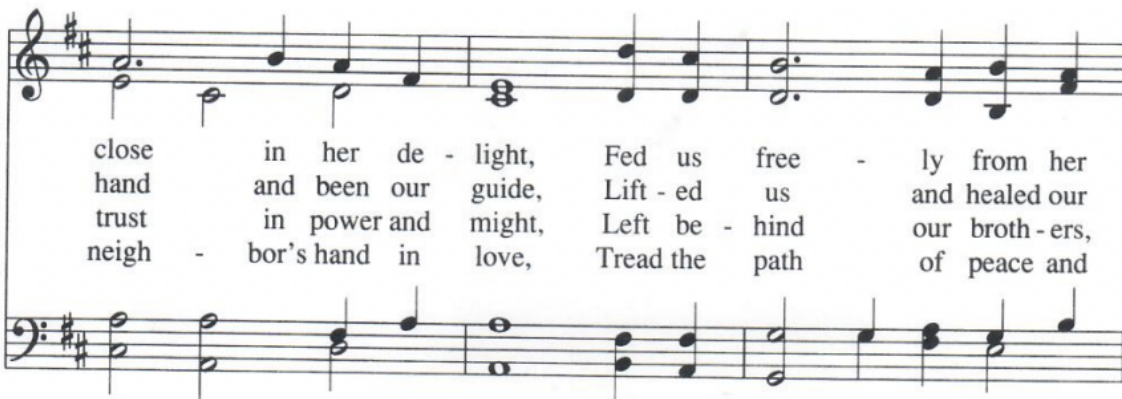
Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Hos. 11:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10

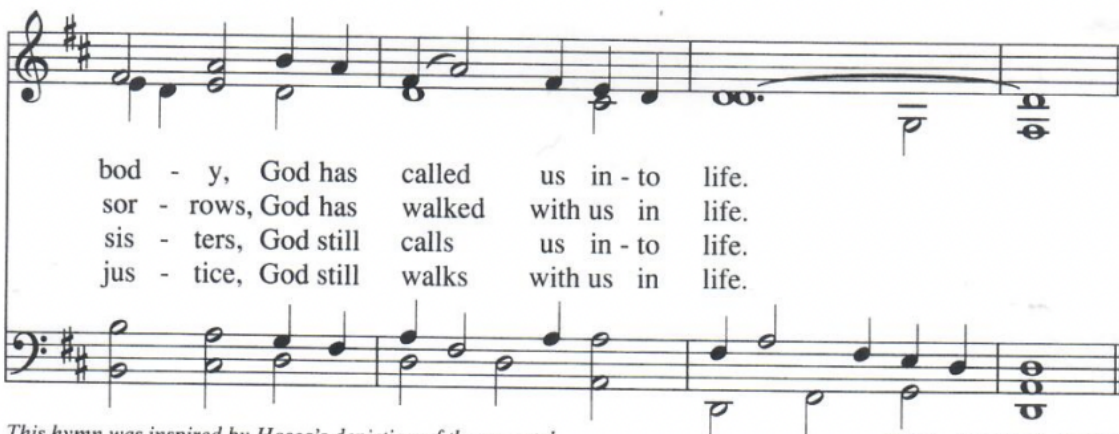
Unison



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

This hymn was inspired by Hosea's depiction of the parental aspects of God's relationship with Israel. It was first sung at a chapel service at Dickinson College, where Daniel Bechtel, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, began his tenure as professor of religion in 1964.

Tune: AUSTIN 8.7.8.7.
 William P. Rowan, 1992
 Alternate tune: STUTTGART

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

441

Edward Hopper, 1871; alt.

Mark 4:35-41

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver life's tem-pes-tuous sea;
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, you can hush the o - cean wild;
 3 When at last I near the shore, and the fear - ful break-ers roar,

Un - known waves be - fore me roll, hid - ing rock and treach-erous shoal;
 Bois-terous waves o - bey your will when you say to them, "Be still."
 Keep-ing me from peace-ful rest, then, while lean-ing on your breast,

Chart and com - pass ev - er be; Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 Won-drous Sov - ereign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 May I hear your words so true, "Fear not, I will pi - lot you."