

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 12, 2024

MOTHER'S DAY - Festival of the Christian Home



“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

GATHERING

Prelude: “My Lord, What a Morning” Robert Lau

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship

Leader: On this festival day, we uplift mothers and motherhood and all things nurturing. We continue as Easter people, so let us raise our voices in praise!

People: We belong to Christ, and so we share in Christ together.

Leader: Just as we share in Christ together, just as we honor the God who protects us as a mother hen her brood, so we are called to love and protect others in our care.

People: We share Christ by proclaiming the good news of God’s love to the world.

Leader: How will we share God’s love with the world?

People: By loving, respecting, and honoring our neighbors, especially those the world neglects, overlooks, and ignores.

Leader: Easter people, we belong to our mothering God. We belong to the Risen Christ!

People: Because we belong to Christ, we will share Christ’s love and belonging everywhere we go.

*Hymn: “Happy the Home When God Is There” (see insert)

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

God of all creation, who called every being into life, You are mindful of humankind in all its diversity. You have embodied us with dignity. We offer gratitude for granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world. Through the Spirit you have birthed our unity and our power as children of

God. When we face misunderstanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries, may your Spirit work to transform us. In silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts and those born by so many.
(Silence).

We ask that your Spirit unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the world. In silence, we bring to You the pain of innocent victims which are many.
(Silence)

Wherever fear and misunderstanding prevents us from caring for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect, so in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships.
(Silence)

(Silence)

God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us to overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace. AMEN

Declaration of Pardon

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “My God and I” Sergei

Scripture: I John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17

Sermon: **“From the Vine to the Fruit”**

*Hymn: #7 “Mothering God, You Gave Us Birth” (if Dianne agrees)

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: When we run to God for protection, God will cover us with love, nurture us in grace. As a mother hen spreads her wings, God covers us when defenseless.

People: When her chicks cry out for help, the mother hen calls them— “Come quickly and hide.” When our God foresees danger and strife, God challenges us to work for harmony and peace.

Leader: As the mother hen seeks the safety of her own, she fights off the enemy as God’s Spirit seeks to intervene on our behalf.

People: As the mother hen cherishes her own, so does our God. We are claimed through Christ as God’s own.

Leader: Under God's Almighty wings, we receive a love that is as strong as armor.
Wings as flexible, yet warm and soft feathers encompass us completely in comfort.
People: So when afraid and uncertain, God invites us to run to the God in whom we trust and upon whom we rely.

(Based on a poem story by Beverley Joy © 2014)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Compassionate Creator, may our giving bear witness to Christ's presence among us. Help us to live in a way that showcases respect and hospitality. As we share our gifts, may they reflect our commitment to communal life guided by love. Guide us in honoring one another and celebrating our commitments as part of our faith. In gratitude, we present our offerings, believing that sharing Christ is the most loving act. In the name of our Rock and Redeemer, we pray. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Charge and Benediction

Beloved, may God bless us with the strength to love one another as God loves each of us, that we may find the complete, total, and everlasting joy that comes when we abide together with God who is Love. AMEN

*Hymn: "Faith of Our Mothers" (see insert)

Postlude: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Douglas Wagner

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Leacock Presbyterian Church

First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in 1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.



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