

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God is the giver of all good gifts, the One who fashioned each of us with unique gifts, that together make up the Body of Christ. In gratitude for all we have received, with a song and prayer, we dedicate back to God, the tithes and offerings of our time, skills, and finances.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, #258
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Creating, bountiful God, all that we give stems first, from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you be a blessing to fulfill your purpose and will among us, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds Hymnal, #280

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Our loving God, upholds us from birth to death, and through all life's changes with grace and love. In gratitude for the abundant love we have received, over the entirety of our lives, may we always be ready:

All: to help those who are struggling, to protect the vulnerable, to feed the hungry, and to comfort the broken.

Pastor: May the blessing of God Almighty, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day - Festival of Christian Home

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: We are beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**Congregation: I am married,
and single
and in a covenant relationship.**

Pastor: We are beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**Congregation: I was married,
and in a holy union,
and never married,
and married more than once,
and widowed.**

Pastor: We are beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**Congregation: I am older
and younger,
and in between;
faced my first serious relationship,
known the joy of love,
endured betrayal,
tasted the grief of a dying partner.**

Pastor: We are the beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**Congregation: I am an only child,
and have ten siblings.
I have raised children
and no children.**

Pastor: We are the beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**Congregation: I am part of a family,
the human family,**

¹ Katherine Hawker wrote this Call to Worship. It was found on her [Liturgy Outside the Box](#) website. It is part of a series she calls "[Beyond Mother's Day](#)."

**a family of faith
my family of origin,
the family of my choosing.**

Pastor: We are beloved children of God.
Together we are family.

**All: *We are beloved children of God.
Together we are family.
Let us worship God together.***

HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* **Hymnal, #12**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: As God's beloved children, it is good and right to raise our hymns of grateful praise! Yet, God invites us to come into God's Presence, in honesty, with the fullness of our lives - to admit not only our love, but also our hate, not only our faith but also our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer. (Silence for Personal Confession)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: *Loving and merciful God, we carry the burdens of words said, which we wish we had not said; of acts done in anger or pride that we wish we could undo. We hold grudges for a long time, and we do not seek after reconciliation with those from whom we are estranged. Forgive us. Forgive those words and deeds and inactions that cause you and others sorrow. Restore us, renew us, and give us the strength, courage, and love we need to be your gracious, merciful, loving people. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News:

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are loved, forgiven, and changed.*

Pastor: Transformed by Christ's mercy and grace, go forth in peace to share mercy and grace with others.

All: *We shall be the loving, merciful, gracious people of God. AMEN!*

PRAISE HYMN *Gloria Patri* **Hymnal, #493**

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME" Based on Proverbs 31:28-31

HYMN *O Mother's Love*

EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

GOSPEL READING – John 14:15-21 and John 19:25-27

SERMON **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

A LITANY FOR MOTHERS

Lectern Side: To those who gave birth this year to their first child –

PULPIT Side: we celebrate with you.

Lectern Side: To those who lost a child this year—

PULPIT Side: we mourn with you.

Lectern Side: To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains, runny noses, skinned knees, and teardrops—
PULPIT Side: we appreciate you.

Lectern Side: To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—

PULPIT Side: we lament with you.

Lectern Side: To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—

PULPIT Side: we walk with you.

Lectern Side: Forgive us when we say foolish things.

PULPIT Side: We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

Lectern Side: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—we need you.

PULPIT Side: To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—

Lectern Side: we celebrate with you.

PULPIT Side: To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—

Lectern Side: we sit with you.

PULPIT Side: To those who lost their mothers this year—

Lectern Side: we grieve with you.

PULPIT Side: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of their mother—

Lectern Side: we acknowledge your experience.

PULPIT Side: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—

Lectern Side: we are better for having you in our midst.

PULPIT Side: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—

Lectern Side: we grieve and rejoice with you.

PULPIT Side: And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—

Lectern Side: we anticipate with you.

All: *On this Mother's Day – a day we lift up Christian Households, we walk together. Parenting is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.*

Pastor: Let us pray.

1. O moth-er's love, sweet moth-er's love, The gift di-vine from
 2. O moth-er's love, the sweet-est known, The rich-est earth-ly
 3. O moth-er's love, so blest and true, That guides and keeps our

heaven a-bove! It lifts our thoughts to realms a-bove, And
 gift we own! Our grate-ful thanks shall clear-ly ring To
 life-time through, Through sac-ri-fice and ser-vice dear, Its

bids us see the good and right. God knows the need of
 reach the throne of God, our King. Our praise shall seek the
 depths of sweet-ness shine more clear. It is to us a

hu-man-kind, The depth of sin our souls may find, And so, to
 Lord of power For bless-ings known this fes-tal hour, For, far a-
 pre-cious gift That lives to bless and bends to give; With lift-ed

keep us pure and fair, We have a moth-er's love and prayer,
 above all gifts di-vine The love of moth-ers bright-ly shine,
 hearts we send a-bove Our grat-i-tude for moth-er's love.