

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 9 May 2021**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter/Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's Day**

(2)

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting\*\*: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
**And kindle in them the fire of your love.**  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,  
**And you will renew the face of the earth.**  
(*Book of Prayers, U.S.A., 20th Cent.*)

Praise Choruses: 2160 "Into My Heart "  
2251 "We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus"

Opening Prayer\*\*: Like the sun that is far away  
and yet close at hand to warm us,  
so God's Spirit is ever present and around us.  
Come Creator into our lives.  
**We live and move  
and have our very being in you.  
Open now the windows of our souls.  
Amen.**  
(*United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation,  
U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.*)

Opening Hymn: 57 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE\**

Prayer for Illumination: 599 (*Verse 1 only*) "Break Thou the  
Bread of Life"

First Lesson: Acts 10:4-48

Psalter: 818 (*Response 2*) Psalm 98

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

Hymn of Preparation: 549 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

Sermon: "Together"

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed, Traditional  
Version"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Mother's Day Prayer\*\*:

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,  
that we may show them reverence and love,  
we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For mothers who have lost a child through death,  
that their faith may give them hope,  
and their family and friends support and console them,  
we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For women, though without children of their own,  
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,  
we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For mothers, who have been unable to be a source of  
strength, who have not responded to their children  
and have not sustained their families,  
we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment  
to her children,  
so you watch over your Church.**

(3)

**Bless these women, that they may be strengthened  
as Christian mothers.**

**Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.**

**Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
may honor them always**

**with a spirit of profound respect.**

**Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Book of Blessings, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)*

The Peace: Let us offer one another  
signs of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offerory

Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving\*\*:

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.  
Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love,  
granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely,  
endurance to those who care for sick family members,  
and wisdom to those in fearful times of change.

**We thank you for gifts of love we have received  
from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion.**

**As we have been loved by you and by others,  
so may we love.**

**We offer ourselves and our gifts in glad thanksgiving,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)*

(4)

The Lord's Prayer: 895

### SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn: 445 "Happy the Home When God Is There"

Blessing\*\*: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
**the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)**

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

### Going Forth

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\*\*THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP

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