

St. John's United Church of Christ
May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

Unison Welcome

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

Prelude

*Call to Worship

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Sing to our God a new song.

God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

*Hymn #295

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (v. 1)

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Hymnal Companion C-4

Words of Assurance

from the UCC Book of Worship

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. **We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Glory Be to the Father #704

Prayer for Illumination

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, O God, and grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation through the reading of this, your Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6
Children's Sermon	Roxanne Davenport
Anthem	<i>"Lord of the Dance"</i> Sydney Carter/arr. Don Hart
Scripture Reading	John 15:9-17
Sermon	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Musical Meditation	
Mothers' Day Litany	<i>written by Laura Markle Downton</i>

We walk in the company of the women who have gone before, mothers of the faith both named and unnamed, testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of Wisdom and Healing. They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers, and saints who are near to us in our memory and our dreaming.

We walk in the company of Deborah,

who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.

We walk in the company of Esther,

who used her position as queen to ensure the welfare of her people.

We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and silenced,

who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

We walk in the company of the woman with the flow of blood,

who audaciously sought her healing and release.

We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,

who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

We walk in the company of Phoebe,

who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

We walk in the company of Perpetua of Carthage,

whose witness in the third century led to her martyrdom.

We walk in the company of Saint Christina the Astonishing,

who resisted death with persistence and wonder.

We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,

who wed imagination and theology, proclaiming wellness as reality.

We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,

who stood against oppression, righteously declaring her womanhood in 1852.

We walk in the company of the Argentine Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo,

who turned their grief into strength, standing together to remember the disappeared children of war with a holy indignation.

We walk in the company of Alice Walker,

who named the purple hue of womanish strength.

We walk in the company of you mothers of the faith,

who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom, and to heal.

Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts)

*Hymn #349

“To God Be the Glory” (v. 1)

*Invitation to Giving

*Commission & Benediction

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Live in the joy of Christ’s love and in all the marvelous things that God is doing!

May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all.

Postlude

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If you are ill, have a fever, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given by Lee Powell honoring Sue Powell’s family.

Worship Resources:

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“Mothers’ Day Litany” written by Laura Markle Downton, included in *Gifts in Open Hands: More Worship Resources for the Global Community*, edited by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy © 2011. Used by permission.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Deacon in Charge	Mike Herbert
Lector	Fran Herrity
Children’s Sermon	Roxanne Davenport
Hospitality Team	
Media Coordinator	Scott and Ginny Cairns