



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
235 South Kenilworth Avenue, Elmhurst, IL
Partners in Christ's Service since 1890

MOTHER'S DAY & FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

At Home or Small Group Worship for May 10, 2020

OPENING HYMN – *audio available on the church website*

#61 All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord, who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love; and who, for the sake of his name, leads us and guides us.

In you, O Lord, we put our trust. You are our God, and our lives are in your hands. Lord, let the light of your face shine on us as we celebrate your presence.

OPENING PRAYER

You care for us with a Mother's love, compassionate God. You nourish us with an embrace of holy love that surrounds us, forgives us, and encourages us. Yet you set us in families where guidance, wisdom, and acceptance may abound. You call us into families of faith where our spiritual roots grow deep and strong. As we live in relationships, may we feel the deep presence of companionship and belonging. Help us, Lord God, to realize that we also belong to one great human family and that you have set before us the day when we all your people will live in peace together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer Hymn #263

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace;
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Silent Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER – *audio available on the church website*

Rev. Mike Daly

Gracious God, we thank you for the unconditional love we receive from you, demonstrated most vividly in Jesus' willingness to call us friends, and then lay down his life for us. For many, we experience a human manifestation of Christ-like love in our mothers, and we thank you for them. We thank you for their sacrifices of time and personal freedoms. We are grateful for the sleepless nights they endured on our behalf and for their caring compassion in times of illness or sorrow.

We thank you for those who taught us the faith and shared with us the stories of Jesus. We thank you for their discipline, for the correction that helped mold our character, teach us respect and manners, and instill in us godly values. We ask you to bless our mothers, to pour out your spirit of grace upon them, and to grant them strength and peace.

For those for whom Mother's Day renews feelings of sorrow and grief over what never was or might have been, we ask for comfort. Lord, we pray for healing and grace for all your people. We thank you that you are present to each of us, whether our mothers are near or far, present or gone, and that in you, we can find the perfect love and acceptance that we so deeply desire. Through Christ, your Son, we pray. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER – *audio available on the website* Michelle Maiers, vocals

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *audio available on the church website* Martha Mendoza

MUSIC MINISTRY– *audio available on the church website*

A Mother's Love Jordan
Meg McGarry, soloist

SCRIPTURE – *audio available on the church website* Erin Stone

Proverbs 31:25-28

“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

MESSAGE – *audio available on the church website* Erin Stone

My name is Erin Stone and I have been a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ since 2008. I am currently a Sophomore at Indiana University. This church has been like family to me, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to give the message this Sunday!

OFFERTORY – *audio available on the church website*

*Our gifts of time, our gifts of talents, our gifts of money;
we offer you all we have to the building of your kingdom.*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – *audio available on the church website*

#64 We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

We sing your mighty power, O God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.

We sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at your command,
and all the stars obey.

We sing your goodness, sovereign God,
who filled the earth with food;
you formed the creatures with your word,
and then pronounced them good.
Oh! how your wonders are displayed
where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread,
or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne.
While all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.

BENEDICTION

Go forth and be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you, amen.

POSTLUDE – *audio available on the church website*

Slow Down
Meg McGarry, soloist

Nordeman

*A special thank you to **Jim Molina** for providing keyboard orchestrations/ production and **Dave Benziger** for providing guitar accompaniment on all the beautiful music for today's service.*