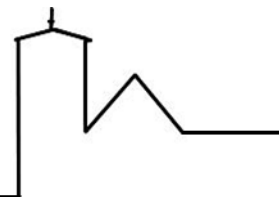


6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

**Lift Your Voice Rejoicing, Mary (Fisk of Gloucester)
Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song (Bridegroom)**

*Wilbur Held
James Biery*

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Great Mother God

Who created mothers

And invented mothering,

Mother us now:

Into your peace and comfort,

Into your nurturing love,

Into the kindness of your presence,

Into the shadow of your wings.

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

We know that mothering takes many forms,

And is done by many kinds of people

In different ways and situations;

Give us the wisdom of your mother-heart.

We know that love is risky:

There's always the possibility of pain,

The risk of disappointment or loss.

Give us the courage of your mother-heart.

Teach us the worth of our own souls,

And the value of our existence.

Give us your mother-love:

To heal us,

To nourish us,

To share freely with the world.

Amen.

*HYMN 461

God is Here!

Abbot's Leigh

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*UNISON*)

Loving God, we come before you, acknowledging that we have not always made our homes a reflection of your unconditional love. We confess that our hearts can grow cold, our hands passive, and our words sharp. We confess the times we have taken our mothers or mother-figures for granted and the times we have failed to live up to our callings as children or parents. We admit that, at times, we have allowed resentment, bitterness, or neglect to erode the relationships you intended for nurture and joy. Forgive our failures to love others well. Heal the wounds of disappointment and replace them with your grace. Amen

TIME FOR SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE Hymn 565

Lord, Have Mercy

John Weaver

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA Hymn 567

Glory to the Father

John Weaver

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 32:11-12,18

*PSALM 66 Hymn 54

Make a Joyful Noise to God!

(see insert)

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 3:3-5

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"The Divine Feminine"

Rev. Tim Mitchell

God, we know that you made us, male and female

All in your image.

You are above all, throughout all

And in all.

Your image can be found in fathers,

And your image can be found in mothers.

In brothers and sisters, in servants and rulers,

In shepherds and sheep, in adults and children;

In men and in women

The truth of the divine is reflected.

Human society has relegated that image of you

that is feminine

To the Less-Than and the Other.

We have worshipped the male

And maligned the female.

We have worshipped the warrior,

And overlooked the nurturer.

We have worshipped the fact,

And ignored the question.

Forgive us for only assigning value to a part of you

And making an idol of it;

All the while closing our perception off

From a broader picture of your goodness.

Restore to us an understanding of you

That encompasses the sacred feminine,

And that helps in turn lift up all of us

Whose identities reflect your feminine image.

Our desire is to know you

Fully and well,

And to see you in the vastness

Of your beauty and majesty.

Amen.

Litany for the Divine Feminine – Fran Pratt

<https://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2017/5/11/litany-for-the-divine-feminine>

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 314

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Bridegroom

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*UNISON*) (*from a Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
healing the sick**

**and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,**

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Ukrainian Alleluia

Craig Courtney

This anthem is a musical portrayal of a quiet voice of faith, praise and hope in the midst of suffering and tragedy.



SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

In your mercy... Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*singing together, Hymn 571*)

CARRYING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 457

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Toulon

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G "Jig" BWV 577

J.S. Bach

Leading in worship today:

Rev. Tim Mitchell

Dr. Polly Brecht, Organist-Choirmaster

J. Douglas McQueen, tenor · Kate Kortemeier, alto

David Kortemeier, bass · Dan Stanley, tenor

Rebekah Dentino, soprano



5.10.26

Open Mind Open Hands Open Heart

Westminster Presbyterian Church · 1420 W. Moss Ave., Peoria, IL 61606

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