

**SUNDAY WORSHIP with  
MOTHER's DAY OBSERVANCE**

10:30am • Sunday • May 12, 2024

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**Mission Statement:** As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

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WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

— WELCOME —

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*Sharon Novak*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

*Adapted from Christine Longhurst*

*based on Psalm 139, led by George and Vivian Corbett Klein*

One: We gather together to worship  
our loving, nurturing God,

*People: The first Creator, the mother of all mothers,*

One: Who knows us intimately,

*People: Loves us unconditionally,*

One: Teaches us the way we should go,

*People: And comforts us in times of need.*

*All: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!*

**\*SONG**

***Sanctuary***

*Sharon Novak*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, Pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, Sanctuary for You.*

— PRAYING —

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Adaptation from New Zealand Prayer Book*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. *Amen.*

**\*SONG #258**

***Morning Has Broken***

*Sharon Novak*

— REFLECTING —

**SCRIPTURE /READING**

**MESSAGE**

**MOTHERHOOD**

*Erica Corbett-Klein*

— MOTHER'S DAY OBSERVANCE —

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Sharon Novak*

**GOD our MOTHER: Responsive Prayer** *(insert)*

**GIFTS & OFFERING**

**\*SONG #207**

***Simple Gifts***

*Sharon Novak*

— CLOSING —

**\*BENEDICTION**

*Sharon Novak*

*May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.*

*May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.*

*May the love of God live in us today.*

*May the peace of God be with us today, May the peace of God be with us today.*

*May it guide us and protect us, as we go our separate ways.*

*May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,*

*May the love of God shine through us today.*

**BLESSING**

*Deacons*

*\*Please rise if you're able*

— MOTHER'S DAY RECOGNITION —

**GOD our MOTHER:** *Led by deacons and adapted from Carol Penner*

**Responsive Prayer**

**One:** O Creator God, we give thanks today to You, the One who gave birth to this world, to all of its creatures and peoples. Today we recognize women and the diversity of people who live within a rich and wondrous spectrum of gender identities.

*People: We thank you, O God, for mothers who gave birth to us, adopted us, fostered us, blended their lives with ours, loved us, chose us, raised us.*

**One:** We honor women who have treated us as their own children, and modeled for us to how to be adults and whole human beings.

*People: We give thanks for kindred of all kinds. We honor matriarchs, ancestresses, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, siblings, daughters, nieces, and descendants.*

**One:** We recognize our spiritual mothers and God mothers

*People: We remember the women who mentored us, taught us, coached us, and befriended us.*

**One:** We thank God for those who gave us sisterhood, deep bonds, kinship and belonging of all kinds.

*People: All of these women teach us how to be holistic parents, cherishing and protecting children among us.*

**One:** We ask that such lessons help us mother — and parent — lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy. That they help us raise our children to be the people they are born to be.

*People: Yet we need your comfort here today, O God, because some are missing mothers, some are missing children, some are parted by distance or death.*

**One:** Comfort those who have given up their child for adoption, and affirm those who chose not to give birth.

*People: Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not.*

**One:** We pray here for those whose mothers have disappointed them;

*People: We ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness,*

**One:** For healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence.

*People: Help our community be a gathering where people can feel mothered, their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.*

**One:** Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world;

*People: Mothers who cannot feed their children, mothers who are homeless or without a homeland; mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets.*

**One:** Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty.

*People: Help us love our planet and cosmos, Mother Earth, so she may continue to sustain us.*

**All:** *God of mothers, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother, God our Mother, love us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known, and hear our prayer this day and give us the courage to be loved by You. Amen.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

*Note: Gifts are distributed to all women in church. Extras are available for anyone who wishes to bring a gift home to another member of the family, please take as many as you need.*

## SCRIPTURES

### PROVERBS 31:25-27

- <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
<sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her happy.

### EZEKIEL 19:10

- <sup>10</sup> Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard<sup>[a]</sup>  
transplanted by the water,  
fruitful and full of branches  
from abundant water.

### MATTHEW 12:48-50

- <sup>48</sup> Jesus replied, *“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”*  
<sup>49</sup> And pointing to his disciples, he said, *“Here are my mother and  
my brothers!”* <sup>50</sup> *For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is  
my brother and sister and mother.”*

### LUKE 8:21

- But he said to them, *“My mother and my brothers are those who  
hear the word of God and do it.”*

SUNDAY  
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*Image: Jyoti Sahi*

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JACKSON COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC  
JACKSON, NH

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE: *For* PEOPLE**

Allan, Anjali, Annie, Arden, Alexis, Barbara, Bob, Cindi, Cheryl, Corey, Deb, Dean, Don, George, Joan, Jean, Judy, Kathy, Ken (KC), Irene, Laurie, Lee, Marcia, Matteo, Mary, Maureen, Parker, Phaedra, Sarah, Scamp, Spencer Elizabeth, Tom, Robert, Val, Vivianne Elizabeth, Lori's niece & nephew, Dawson's sister, Tish's mother & family and Stam family.

For those in need of the essentials of life: dignity, work, education, food, water, shelter, freedom of thought and expression and belief and self-direction, sense of belonging and purpose, a place to call home.

For people with new diagnosis, undergoing treatment, seeking healing and recovery in body, mind or spirit. For those with cognitive, mental, and emotional challenges and changes. For those holding vigil until the end of life, and for those who are grieving, including the family of Jacob.

For those serving in the military and for their families. For those in caring roles and professions. For emergency responders: firefighters, police, EMTs and ambulance, medical health, social health, and mental health, disaster relief, crisis intervention, and others. For those in leadership positions making choices that affect other people.

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE: *For* PLACES**

For climate-related occurrences around the world. For places affected by natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, fires, droughts, famine, eruptions, storms and other phenomena. For places struggling with conflict, systemic oppression, or violence such as Israel, Gaza, Palestine, and the Ukraine. For places with which we have partnership, including Chikanga Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe and communities in Honduras.