

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY - FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MAY 8, 2022**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Come, Mother God, come as an enfolding nurturing presence, come as steadfast love to hold us. Come, Mother God, come as an enabling strengthening force, come as tough love to let us go. Come, Mother God, come as friend and comforter healing our wounds, walking our way, come as wounded healer to make us whole. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: COME, LET US JOIN WITH FAITHFUL SOULS**

383

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.

Unison: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

* **CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Lord, many of us read these words from Your Holy Word and are inspired, encouraged, and grateful. But some of us are tempted to doubt that Your grace could ever produce these kinds of virtues in our lives. Some of us are tempted by resentment and unforgiveness because of those who have let us down. Some of us are tempted to condemn ourselves for past

failings, and all of us remember times when we have fallen short. Forgive us for doubt, resentment, unforgiving hearts, self-condemning attitudes. Remind us of your forgiveness, always available in Jesus Christ. In spite of our failures and sin, we trust in Your power to transform our lives. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus, so that our lives may bring Joy to Your world and Praise to Your Name. Amen.

*** THE KYRIE**

750

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Thanks be to God for the Spirit who lives in us. Praise be to God who is always working things together for good. We are loved. We are forgiven.

**People: God is beyond us. God is between us. God is within us.
Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*** THE GLORIA PATRI**

759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*** WE SHARE PEACE**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

**MISSION MOMENT: PHOEBE MINISTRIES
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Ruth 1:1 – 8

New Testament: Luke 24:13 – 32

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: *WHEN LOVE IS FOUND*

362

SERMON: *Accompaniment for The Journey*

– Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Ruth and Naomi*

-written & performed by Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A *LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY***

We remember Sarai

**who was taunted by others in the household
because of her inability to have children.**

All-encompassing God,

we pray for those who feel excluded

when we emphasize one kind of family as normal.

We remember Esther,

who was adopted and raised by her cousin.

God who embraces us all,

**we pray for those who cannot be raised by their parents,
for a short time or permanently.**

We remember Jochebed, the mother of Moses,

who placed him into a raft on the river.

Saving God,

**we pray for parents who struggle to raise their children
in oppressive circumstances.**

We remember Hannah,

**who loved her child so much she handed him over to another
to raise.**

Loving God,

we pray for parents who have placed their child in another family.

**We remember Naomi,
who grieved the death of her sons.
God, who grieves with us,
we pray for parents who mourn the death of a child.**

**We remember Ruth,
who gave up her family to be family to another.
Inclusive God,
we pray for those who choose to be family
to those isolated by culture or language or distance.**

**We remember Elizabeth,
who had a child in old age
and we remember Mary,
who had a child as a teenager.
Ageless God,
we pray that as a community we accept people of varying life
stages
and responsibilities and relationships.**

**We remember Rachel,
crying for her children
God of justice and hope,
we pray for those whose children are killed,
and look to a time when children can live safely in their
communities.**

**We remember Lois and Eunice,
who taught Timothy faith by example.
Faithful God,
we pray for those who teach us faith by their lives,
may we remember that we also teach about you in the way we
live.**

**We remember other people not named in the Scriptures,
like the mother of the prodigal son.**

Companion God,

**we pray for those who wait for a phone call or a visit,
cut off from family and friends by distance and disagreement.**

We remember our church family.

**Nurturing God, we give thanks for those
who enrich our lives by their presence
who teach us about your abundant love
who encourage us to journey in faith.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers! Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us, and women who have treated us as their own children. You teach us how to be good mothers, cherishing and protecting the children among us. Help us mother lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy. Help us raise our children to be the people they are born to be. We need your comfort here today, God, because some are missing mothers, some are missing children, some are parted by distance or death. Comfort those who have given up their child for adoption and thank you for the mothers who made room for these children and welcomed them into their families as one of their own. Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not. We pray for those here whose mothers have disappointed them; we ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness, for healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence. Help our congregation be a space where people can feel mothered, their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured. Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world; 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. Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty. God of mothers, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother, God our Mother, loving us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known, hear our prayer this day,

(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)

Pastor: Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass. We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

CHOIR ANTHEM: *O SING TO THE LORD MOST HIGH*

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY 780

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

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Generous God, your gifts are countless. You lead us, guide us, and restore us when we need it most. May we recall this generosity now and remember the examples of Tabitha and others who share what they have and give to those in need. We

offer these gifts to you and pray that you will bless them for your work of ministry. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * CLOSING HYMN: *GOD, BLESS OUR HOMES* 429**
- * BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**
- * MEDITATION**

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted into our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruits of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *O SING TO THE LORD* - R. J. Powell

O sing to the Lord, the Lord most high; Let ev'ry land adore: With grateful voice and cheerful songs Proclaim, his mighty power. O enter then his courts with joy; Sing praise unto the Lord; He formed us with his mighty hand, And leads us by his word. His hands provide our sustenance and ev'ry blessing give; We feed upon his love and care, And in his pastures live. How good the Lord our God, His truth and mercy sure; In earth and heav'n above, His promises endure.

Welcome to Faith Church this Fourth Sunday in Easter and a Happy Mother's Day to all mother-figures! We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

The altar flowers this morning are presented by the Talboos in honor of Ukranian Mothers who are struggling to protect their families.

Special thanks to Scott Brooks-Cope, Regional Director of Pastoral Care and Education at Phoebe Ministries, for joining us this morning to share our Mission Moment, the sermon, and his musical talents with us.

Today is Joyful Noise Sunday. If you brought along loose change please drop it in the pot in the narthex and listen to a **“joyful noise.”**

We have an opening for Altar Flowers on May 15th. If interested in sponsoring them please call the church office.

Spring seems to (finally) be on its way, and perhaps it is time to gather our yarns and needles again! **“Faith in Stitches” will soon be waking from its winter break!**

We will be trying an afternoon schedule beginning May 10th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in our Memorial Room.

We welcome any and all interested members, friends and neighbors! See you on May 10th!!

Jane Van Horn (484-274-3774)

CALENDAR

Regular Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm; Closed on Fridays

- TODAY** -Mother's Day
-9:00 Sunday School
-10:15 Worship
-Guest Speaker Scott Brooks-Cope,
Phoebe Ministries
-Joyful Noise Collection
- MONDAY** -Sandy works from home
- TUESDAY** -1:30 Faith in Stitches (Mem Rm)
- THURSDAY** -2:00 Mission Mtg
- FRIDAY** -Office Closed
-Pastor's Day Off
- SUNDAY** -9:00 Sunday School
-10:15 Worship

Those Who Will Serve:

	May 8	May 15
Head Usher:	Mike Ford	Mike Ford
Usher(s):	Faye Tirpak	Doris Horwath
Lay Reader:	Donna Barone	Donna Schoenberger
Flowers:	Talboos	Available
Fin. Sec.:	Jerry Trexler	Jerry Trexler
Lawn Crew:	Terry Muth Glenn Gunkle	Volunteers Needed

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm - Closed Fridays

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

Sandy works from home on Mondays: 610-967-6232

Pastor: 484-893-0698; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

Director of Music: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net