

Call to Worship

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, which also happens to be “Mother’s Day,” let us rise as the Body of Christ, whether we stand or sit, and join our voices in the Call to Worship printed on the back of your bulletin...

Leader: “As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you,” says the Lord.

People: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Leader: God has promised, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

People: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Leader: God has loved us with an everlasting love. The eternal God is our refuge, and we are carried and comforted by the everlasting arms.

People: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Leader: Nothing in all creation will ever separate us from the love of God.

People: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

***All: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
God’s mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning; great is God’s faithfulness!***

Let us pray...

Prayer of Invocation

O God, you are Love, and we thank you for your faithfulness toward us. You are also Light, and there is no darkness in you at all. Help us to trust in your tender mercies and to rest in your divine, unchanging love. Amen

Remain standing and sing with me
of God’s great faithfulness,
#327 in your Hymnal.

Call and Prayer by Mary Beth Tuttle, co-pastor
Holmesville, Nebraska Church of the Brethren
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin
© 2017 Brethren Press.

Litany of Confession

Still standing, let us together make our
confession to the Lord, #691 in the hymnal.

(pause until all are ready)

Leader: Almighty God, Spirit of purity and grace
whose dwelling is with the humble
and contrite heart,
hear your children's confession of sin
and grant us mercy.

For all that has been evil in our lives;
for unholy thoughts and impure motives,
for any scorn of goodness, trifling with truth,
and indifference to beauty,
for being petty when
we could have been gracious,

People: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For lack of love toward you,
whose love has never failed;
for doubt in your providence,
for acts of ingratitude,
and for disobedience to visions
we have been able to see,

People: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For the wrong we have done our neighbors;
for silence in the face of war,
for neglect of charity and failure in justice,
for forgetfulness of other's pain,
and for advantage taken of another's weakness,

People: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For our faulty following of the Master;
our slow faith in his power to save,
our timid, hesitant answers
to his call of service,
our insensibility to the meaning of the cross;
for all that mars our discipleship
and makes it difficult
for others to believe in him,

People: forgive us, O God.

Leader: May God, who is almighty and merciful
forgive our sins,
empower us to overcome temptation,
and enable us to love as Jesus loved.

People: AMEN

Hymnal #691 - adapted from a litany of repentance,
Edward K. Ziegler, *The Adventurous Future*,
ed. Paul H. Bowman, © 1959 Brethren Press.

Please be seated.

1 Peter 2:1-10

- 1 - So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk.
- 2 - You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God.
- 1 - Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor.
- 2 - Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.
- 1 - The Scriptures provide precedent:
- 2 - Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor.
- 1 - Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it.
- 2 - To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him,
- 1 - The stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone.
- 2 - For the untrusting it's . . . a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way.
- 1 - They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

- 2 - But you are the ones chosen by God,
- 1 - chosen for the high calling of priestly work,
- 2 - chosen to be a holy people,
- 1 - God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

from *The Message*, arranged by Meghan Knight
Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996,
2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson
Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group

Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Pray with me.

O God, our Redeemer, you are glorious! Your Son Jesus has won salvation for all who trust in you. Thank you for nurturing us through your word and the witness of faithful disciples. Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, so that we might speak boldly of your mighty acts. Let our monetary offerings and spiritual sacrifices be acceptable to you. We pray through Christ, our risen Lord, who stands at your right hand and governs our lives with wisdom, power, and love. Amen.

by Rev. Rosanna Anderson
Associate Director of Stewardship Ministries
Leadership Resources
United Methodist Church
© 2017 Discipleship Ministries. All Rights Reserved

Ushers?

Prayer from Scripture

- ¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
- ² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
- ³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
- ⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
- ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand
of my enemies and persecutors.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

John 14:1-14

- M - Our gospel reading this morning is from the fourteenth chapter of John, which takes place around a meal table. In the previous chapter, Jesus interrupted the meal to wash the feet of his disciples.
- P - *“By doing this, I have given you an example,”* Jesus told them, *“that you also should do as I have done to you.”* That is, he called them to a life of service.
- M - Following this feet-washing, Jesus mentioned how he was going to be betrayed, and then Judas – the betrayer – left to do what he needed to do.
- P - *“I am with you only a little longer,”* Jesus then told those who remained. *“Where I am going, you cannot come.”* Then he gave them a new commandment: *“love one another,”* he said. *“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”*
- M - Simon Peter responded, *“Lord, where are you going?”*
- P - Jesus answered, *“Where I am going, you cannot follow me now.”*
- M - Peter then said, *“Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”*
- P - Can you guess what Jesus answered? ...
- M - *“Very truly, I tell you,”* Peter, *“before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.”*
- P - Those words immediately precede this morning's gospel reading. Listen.

(pause)

M - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

P - ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

M - ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

P - ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

M - ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so

that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

from the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible,
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Mother's Day Prayer

(Pete:)

This day we gather with eager hearts, hungry for your Word, yearning for the joy you promise in love. O God, together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share. You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the mercy of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us great blessing.

(Meghan:)

On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey.

(Pete:)

We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children.

(Meghan:)

We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And, so we lift to you our mothers, so imperfect, also so wounded by this world.

(Pete:)

We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us.

(Meghan:)

We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who had been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost.

(Pete:)

We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.

Copyright ©2008 Rev. Jane Sommers
(a retired United Methodist pastor).
All Rights Reserved.