

Sebastopol United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day

Zoom Service – Order of Worship

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Seasonal Theme

Alive and out of the grave, the risen Christ is witnessed in the real world.

Theme for the Day

We are chosen to be God’s instruments and intimate companions, portraying love as our mission to the world.

Prelude

Jim Johnson

(Today the candle is lit, symbolizing that Christ is alive and present with us. He is risen, and it is witnessed in the real world)

Welcome -- Joys and Concerns

Barbara Stranzl

(please post your Joys and Concerns in the Zoom Chat Room)

Opening Hymn

UMH 127 (verses 1, 2, and 3)
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Charlotte Fisher

Call to Worship

Charlotte Fisher

Leader: Sing a new song.

People: **A song of love for all.**

Leader: Sing of the Spirit of love.

People: **The Spirit who loves us all.**

Leader: Sing of God’s abiding love.

People: **That we might love one another and all of the world.**

Leader: Sing a new song.

Unison: **A song of love for all. Amen.**

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| Hymn | UMH 397 (verses 1 and 4) <i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i> | Charlotte Fisher |
| <i>Recognition and Blessing of our 80-year-old+ Women</i> | | Barbara Stranzl |
| <i>Special Blessing for All Mothers/Women</i> | | Pastor Iunisi Tovo |
| <i>Special Music</i> | | Jim Johnson |
| <i>Readings from Holy Scripture</i> | | |
| Acts 10:44-48 | | Matt Witteman |
| John 15:9-17 | | Iris Dunkle |
| Ruth 1:1-7 | | Elizabeth Witteman |
| Ruth 1:8-15 | | Caryn Fisher |
| Ruth 1:16-22 | | Beth Wakelee |
| <i>Centering and Prayer of Illumination</i> | | Charlotte Fisher |
| <p>Spirit of love, abide in us and in our worship. Whisper your song of love in our hearts, that love may flow through every word we hear, every thought we think, every word we speak and every song we sing. Spirit of power and grace, abide in us, that we may abide in your love and proclaim your song of love forever through Jesus the Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.</p> | | |
| <i>Message</i> | | Pastor Iunisi Tovo |
| <i>THE BLESSINGS OF AUTHENTIC LOVE!</i> | | |
| <i>Pastoral Prayer</i> | | Pastor Iunisi Tovo |
| <i>Closing Hymn</i> | UMH 369 (verses 1, 2, and 3) <i>Blessed Assurance</i> | Jim Johnson |

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and children so as to know your will in the world. As your people we offered these tithes and offerings, together with all households of the church to use us, and these offerings so as to spread your love near and far. In Jesus's loving name and way, we pray, Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Created by God of love, we go to love all creation. Blessed with love, we are bound by love. Chosen for love, we now for love.

Postlude

Jim Johnson

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Scripture Readings for May 9, 2021

first reading – ACTS 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

second reading – JOHN 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's

life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

third reading – **RUTH 1:1-22**

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from

marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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Thank you for joining us in worship today