

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020 – Happy Mother’s Day

I’m so glad you’re taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.
—*Pastor Cathy Rafferty*

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Risen Christ, we have journeyed together from the first Sunday of Easter here to Mother’s Day, sharing the stories of your resurrection appearances. As we worship today, may your word melt our hearts. And, may we recognize you present with us in the breaking of bread, with an assurance that compels us to rise up to proclaim your love to a hurting world. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *Joyful, Joyful* (UMH 89)

Debbie Hubbard

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o’er us,
binding all within its span.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (RSV)

Alice Butch

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

And he said to them, “What things?”

And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened.

Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.”

And he said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?”

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message for Today: Let Us Break Bread Together

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Let's begin in a spirit of prayer (Dr. Marcia McFee, “Comfort Food: A Feast of Love”):

It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. Take a moment and say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to you at your table today.

Jesus is no longer physically on earth, yet every time we gather around a table and we call him to mind, he is present with us in Spirit. And so too, our loved ones are with us, across time and distance. Let this be a comfort to us.

We also want to call to mind, the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know. But we know they need our prayers and God's care.

For those who have lost loved ones

For those who are sick and those who are recovering

For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home

For those who are caring for persons in medical care and residential settings

For those who are incarcerated and those who watch over them

For those who are separated from loved ones and livelihoods

For those who are “essential” and are so very tired

For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort

For those who are overcome by addictions and despair

For those who are triggered and traumatized

For those who are frustrated and disappointed, some to the point of rage

For those who are afraid

I invite you to take a deep breath on behalf of all those we do not know and cannot call by name. As we do, we know that God knows who needs our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence.

Confident that God gathers us all to the table, let us offer the Great Thanksgiving:
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we lost our way, your love remained steadfast, showing us the way to the place we belong.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, who called you Abba, Father.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own.
In Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death
and destroyed their power forever.

You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory,
and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise
and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we
proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts,
that in the breaking of this bread and the sharing of this cup
we may know the presence of the Living Christ,
and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Having offered the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, I invite you now to share the elements you
have where you are, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. (If you prefer not to participate or
where unable to provide the bread and juice where you are, know you are still blessed and
beloved, in the presence of the Risen Christ.)

Break the bread into enough pieces for each of you and offer it to one another, saying, "The body
of Christ, given for you." You can then each dip the bread into the cup, or first eat the bread and
then drink from the cup, or pour your juice into cups for each of you. As you share from the cup,

say to one another, “The cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.” If you are the only one celebrating where you are, lift the bread and say the words, recognizing Jesus present with you. Do the same with the cup.

As we listen to Debbie Hubbard sing, “Let Us Break Bread Together,” take time to savor this sacrament, to call to mind those with whom you have shared it in other times and places, and those who are sharing it together with you in this worship experience.

Responding in Song: *Let Us Break Bread Together* (UMH 618) Debbie Hubbard

Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees,
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees,

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees,
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayer after Communion and The Lord’s Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing:

May you recognize the presence of the Risen Christ as a fire in your heart, that feeds your spirit, that heals and strengthens your body, and that compels you to proclaim the gospel of the Risen Christ in word and deed. Amen.

Music for Going Forth: *Bells of Easter*

Debbie Hubbard

Communion Note: If you have bread or juice leftover from today, I’d ask that you please either finish consuming it all in a respectful manner, or return it to the earth, scattering the crumbs and pouring out the juice onto the ground.

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- Who baked, blessed, and shared bread with you? What experiences of Holy Communion are meaningful to you? You may want to journal or draw a bit about today’s experience.
- How could we be “mothering” others through these days? Offering care, nurture, nourishment?