



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LE SUEUR, MINNESOTA
THE REV. JANET CRISSINGER, PASTOR

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY
May 12, 2024 9:00 a.m.

“Dear God,” she prayed, “let me be something every minute every hour of my life.”
Betty Smith, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION *Blessed* Shift Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 139

We gather here to worship God,
who loved us before we were yet born,
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
whose presence never leaves us,
and whose love for us never ceases. Search us, O God, and know our hearts,
and lead us in the way everlasting.

+HYMN **Beautiful Savior** (insert)

LITANY FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

We praise you, God, for all who have loved and laughed and labored as they cared for children.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

We praise you, God, for all who have wept in sorrow and joy for children.

Blessed be the Lord forever

We praise you, God, for Jesus, born of Mary and nurtured in her love.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

We praise You, God, for Your boundless love that surrounds the whole human family—from birth through death to life again.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

Through Jesus Christ, keep us forever in unity with the whole human family.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

SHARING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Loving God, [SEP] we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us. We thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of [SEP] Your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other. Today, loving God, we thank You for our mothers in faith –

who cared for us when we were helpless, who comforted us when we were hurt, whose love and care we often took for granted.

Today we pray for—

**those who are grieving the loss of their mother;
those who desired but did not have children of their own:
those who remember conflict and strife in the home;
those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her; those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love; and for families separated by war or conflict.**

Lord, bless the families of the earth and preserve our unity with You and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray to You as a loving parent—

THE LORD'S PRAYER
THREE-FOLD AMEN

READING *Why God Made Mothers* Jack Thelemann

HYMN **Children of the Heavenly Father** (back cover)

SCRIPTURE READING Proverbs 31:25-31

Reader: Delores Loewe

She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
²⁶ She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ “Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

May God add a blessing to the reading and hearing of the Word. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17:6-19

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Time for the Child in All of Us* Pastor Jan

Readers: Kevin Sullivan, Brian Braun, Mark Pinney

HYMN **Jesus Loves Me!** NCH 327

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise Christ all people here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore, Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+BENEDICTION

+RECESSIONAL HYMN **For the Beauty of the Earth** NCH 28

+BENEDICTION

+SENDING FORTH **May the Lord Be Always With You**

+POSTLUDE



Thank you to the participants in today's special service honoring the Christian family.

Jack Thelemann: Why God Made Mothers, By Erma Bombeck

Kevin Sullivan: Are You My Mother?, by PD. Eastman

Brian Braun: Runaway Bunny, by Margaret Wise Brown

Mark Pinney: I Love You Forever, Robert Musch