

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025



Gathering Music (VU # 329)

"O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising"

Welcome



Candle Lighting Litany for Mother's Day

(The first candle is lit.)

Nurturing God, we light this candle in recognition of the great care and love you have for each one of us. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

(The second candle is lit.)

Nurturing God, we light this candle in thanksgiving for all mothers, for all they do, and have done, for all they give, and have given and for all they mean and will always mean. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

(The third candle is lit.)

Nurturing God, we light this candle for all families throughout the world. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.

(The fourth candle is lit.)

Nurturing God, we light this candle for the family of the Church, here and everywhere. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.


(The fifth candle is lit.)

Nurturing God, we light this candle for all who nurture and encourage others. Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.





Announcements



Erin United Church
invites you to an

Alley Sale & Bake Sale

Saturday, June 7, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Lots of gently used treasures &
yummy homemade baking
that you will love!*

See you at 115 Main Street
(next to McMillan Park)



Prelude

*In the Garden quoting
"Liebestraum" by Franz Liszt*

Call to Worship

We gather to celebrate God's love expressed in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We gather to give thanks for Mothers who taught us the faith. Following their example, we gather as a pilgrim people, searching for ways to live out our commitment.



And Jesus said, "Come !"

**To all mothers and all children: Jesus said,
"Come !"**

To the motherless and the childless: Jesus said, "Come !"

To all who long to be mothered: Jesus said, "Come !

Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls."

Amen.

- 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.



2 O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the waivering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

**3 O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many'a heart.**

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance



God, we thank you for all who mother us, biological and adoptive mothers, caregivers, relatives and friends; women who have been there for us, who have made us who we are.

Thank you, God, that even though mothers may fail us, you never fail us and that you mother us through your love. We are not perfect people, and in our intimate relationships, we are imperfect.

For all the ways we have as mothers, disappointed or failed our children, may you forgive us.

For all the ways we have as children, disappointed or failed our mothers, may you forgive us; give us the grace to say, “I’m sorry,” and the wisdom to make amends.

Patient God, we ask for self-control, so that we may model gracefulness in stressful situations. Above all these, we ask for love, pressed down, shaken together, running over !

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who knew the love of a mother, faithful and true to the end. Amen.

I ♥ Mom



Time with the Young People

by Lynda

Children's Song

"Happy Mother's Day"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYqFPa1mrXo>

(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)

The Scriptures **Proverbs 31:25–31** *by Rev. Yun-Hee*

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

We give thanks for inspiration.



Choir Anthem

"I Carry You in My Heart"



Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee









© 2008-2014 Rachel K. So Photography







A Poem for Mothers **“Mother”** *by Jodi L. Landes*

*A mother loves right from the start,
No matter if her children are near or far apart.
A mother gives never-ending love.
She gives us comfort and peace like a beautiful dove.*

*For us she will always do her best,
Even when we put her patience to the test.
She wipes our tears,
Chases away our fears,*

*Encourages us to follow a dream,
No matter how far fetched it may seem.
Her gifts can never compare to any other.
I am so honoured to call her my mother.*

*Looking back on another year,
I was so lucky to have a mother so dear.
So Mom, on your special day, relax and enjoy
And always know that I couldn't have asked for any
other
More incredible person to call my mother.*

Hymn

"In The Garden"

1

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

2

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

3

I'd stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known



Mother's Day Prayers

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. May you 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. *(Pause)*

May you comfort those who have given up their child for adoption, or who chose not to give birth, and had an abortion; comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not. *(Pause)*

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. *(Pause)*

May you 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. *(Pause)*

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. Amen.



VU#960

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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, and
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Musical Offering VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully



Offering Prayer

**God of Great gifts, we give you these gifts today
knowing that you are the Father of gifts. You are
the Mother constantly providing for us, caring for
us. As we have been abundantly provided for, we
give abundantly to the work that you give us to do,
the work of the Church, the care for those who are
poor. May you accept these gifts in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Hymn VU # 289

"It Only Takes a Spark"

1

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its
glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.



2 What a wondrous time is Spring when all
the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start
their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like Spring,
you want to pass it on.



3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that
I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.



Blessing

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty. the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.



Commissioning

“Go Now in Peace”

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.*



Thank God for being with us!

*Thank you for Worshipping
together & for Participating
in the Service!*

*Thank you all mothers and
women for their dedicated
lives !*

(adapted from

<https://spiritualeldercare.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/mothers-day-worship-service.pdf>

<https://spaciousfaith.com/2022/05/02/worship-resources-for-mothers-day/>

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/call-to-worship-benediction-for-mothers.html>

<https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2011/05/mothers-day-prayer-1.html>

and Images from the public domain)



Have a wonderful time with your loved ones !

{ A short devotional Time }

*Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you
[Psalm 63:3]*

Like King David, regardless of our circumstances or the fierceness of those standing against us, we can demonstrate confidence in God by praising Him (Ps 63:11). Though we'll suffer, sometimes by no fault of our own, we can trust that God's Love is always better than life.

~ from "Daily Bread" by Xochitl Dixon on January 9