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“Ruth and Naomi”

by

Cody F. Miller

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

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**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Mrs. Ronda Stevens, Board Moderator

Mr. Conor Frost, Musician

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP

L: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God’s house.

**P: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.**

L: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.

**ALL: Come, let us worship in unity and love.**

OPENING PRAYER

**\*** HYMN (p. 5) *For the Fruit of All Creation* AR HYD Y NOS

RESPONSIVE PRAYER of

L: *The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.*

**P: Come Holy Spirit and lead us.**

L: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

**P: The Way of change and testing,**

**the Way of the desert and the wilderness.**

L: *This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:*

*I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they*

*shall be my people.*

**P: Come Holy Spirit and make us your own.**

L: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

**P: The Way of new learning and questioning,**

**the Way of the River Jordan and the Upper Room.**

L: *No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all*

*know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and*

*remember their sin no more.*(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

**P: Come Holy Spirit and shape us anew.**

L: Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

**ALL: The Way of joy in life and sacrifice,**

**the Way of the Creation and the Cross.**

***\* Words of Assurance (*minister*)***

 ***\* Gloria Patri* (spoken)**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One!**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;**

 **World without end. Amen. Amen.**

***\*Offering Signs of Peace***

CHILDREN’S TIME

INVITATION to STEWARDSHIP & OFFERING

***Doxology (*spoken)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

 **Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

 **Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication***

**We give a portion of what you have blessed us with, O God.
May you bless our offering.
Come and work through these gifts, and
extend your love through us we pray! Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

**2**

SCRIPTURE (pp. 3,4) Acts 4:32-35

SERMON Accompaniment and Trust

\* HYMN (p. 6) *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* AUSTIN

\* BENEDICTION

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***Today’s Scripture:***

**Ruth 1:1-18**

(Common English Bible)

﻿ ﻿During the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. A man with his wife and two sons went from Bethlehem of Judah to dwell in the territory of Moab. 2 The name of that man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and settled there.

 3 But Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. Then only she was left, along with her two sons.

4 They took wives for themselves, Moabite women; the name of the first was Orpah and the name of the second was Ruth. And they lived there for about ten years.

5 But both of the sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died. Only the woman was left, without her two children and without her husband.

6 Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the LORD had paid attention ﻿to his people by providing food for them. 7 She left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah.

**3**

8 Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the LORD deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. 9 May the LORD provide for you so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 But they replied to her, "No, instead we will return with you, to your people."

11 Naomi replied, "Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? 12 Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons-- 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the LORD's will has come out against me."

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. 15 Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law."

﻿ 16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you." 18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

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**4**

***HYMNS FOR THE LORD’S DAY***

**FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION**

HYMN TUNE: AR HYD Y NOS

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green

1. For the fruit of all creation,

thanks be to God.

For God’s gifts to every nation,

thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping,

thanks be to God.

1. In the just reward of labor,

God’s will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor,

God’s will is done.

In our world-wide task of caring,

for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing,

God’s will is done.

1. For the harvest of the Spirit,

thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,

thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,

for the truths that still confounds us,

Most of all that love has found us,

thanks be to God.

**5**

**LIKE A MOTHER WHO HAS BORNE US**

HYMN TUNE: AUSTIN

TEXT: Daniel Bechtel

1. Like a mother who has borne us,

held us close in her delight,

Fed us freely from her body,

God has called us into life.

1. Like a father who has taught us,

grasped our hand and been our guide,

Lifted us and healed our sorrows,

God has walked with us in life.

1. Though as children we have wandered,

placed our trust in power and might,

Left behind our brothers, sisters,

God still calls us into life.

1. When we offer food and comfort,

grasp our neighbor’s hand in love,

Tread the path of peace and justice,

God still walks us into life.

**6**

***THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!***

***JOIN US in FELLOWSHIP HALL***

***for***

***COFFEE and CONVERSATION!***

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***THINKING ABOUT THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE…***

**Thoughts you have about the story:**

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**Questions/Observations:**

1. What does Ruth stand to lose if she stays with her mother-in-law?
2. What do you think of Orpah’s choice?
3. With whom might you make a covenant in order to help preserve and enrich their life and yours?

**Prayer:**

O Source and Spirit of our lives,

may we respond boldly to your call to adventure

-- for justice, for love, and for joy. Amen.

 Sheldon W. Bennett

*“Commitment*

*is an act,*

*not a word.”*

- Jean-Paul Sarte

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***Join us each week at 6:30pm***

***in***

***Fellowship Hall!***

**~ Bring your own dinner ~**

RSVP with Pastor Hafidha



**Mid-Week Meet-UP.** Join us **every Wednesday at 6:30pm** for a simple supper and fellowship. **Bring your own dinner.** **RSVP with Pastor Hafidha at the church.** Masks and safe distancing will keep us all safe.

**Food Pantry 2021:** The Mission Committee is busy making plans to open a Food Pantry for individuals and families who may need assistance. There is much to plan for and do. If you would like to contribute to the organizing efforts of getting this mission off the ground, please leave your donation in the offering plate, or send it to the church office. Also, there is a donation container in Fellowship Hall.

