

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

May 9, 2021 • The Sixth Sunday after Easter
Mother's Day

PRELUDE Chappell Kingsland, Piano

Songs for the Piano:

"Larghetto"; "Allegretto grazioso"

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL VIDEO

CALL TO WORSHIP Deborah Barnard

One: Mothers come in all types—

Many: Adoptive mothers and birth mothers

One: Incidental mothers and intentional mothers

Many: Loving mothers and lost mothers,

One: Those living and those passed,

Many: Alternative mothers of all kinds

One: This Mother's Day we celebrate them all

Many: And give thanks to you for them, O God.

OPENING HYMN *God Made from One Blood* NCH #427

**God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raise us from birth,
Companions who join us to work through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.**

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
The intimate networks on whom we depend
of parents and partners and children and friends.**

**Through families we've tasted the value of trust
and felt what it means to be loving and just,
Yet families have also betrayed their best goals,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.**

**Help families in all of their various forms
to face with integrity struggles and storms;
Grant peace to our homes that will nurture the bud
Of peace for the families you made from one blood.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Rev. Kirby with Norah and Ruby Wilderman

UNISON PRAYER

Deborah Barnard

**O Holy Mother, God of life and love, enter into our worship
today. Grant us wisdom—the wisdom we need—to live life
together as you call us to do. Embolden us on this journey,
living life together in your love, and encourage us to invite
others along. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Sanctuary* Thompson and Scruggs

**Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary For you. (*Repeat*)**

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SCRIPTURE READING *Proverbs 8:1-14* Deborah Barnard

**Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
² On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
³ beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
⁴ "To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.
⁵ O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
⁶ Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;**

**7 for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
9 They are all straight to one who understands
and right to those who find knowledge.
10 Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold;
11 for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
12 I, wisdom, live with prudence,
and I attain knowledge and discretion.
13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.
14 I have good advice and sound wisdom;
I have insight, I have strength.**

NRSV

THE MESSAGE. *“What a Character! Sophia”* Rev. Kirby

MUSICAL OFFERING Chappell Kingsland, Piano
“This Is to Mother You”
Sinead O’Connor

DOXOLOGY NCH #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Kirby

SILENT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER

--Continued--

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O God* NCH #769

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds* NCH #393

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and
our cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kirby

Leader: May the Peace of God go with you.

People: And also with you. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Halleluja

NCH #236

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-u-jah!
Halleluja, hallelujah!**

Postlude

Chappell Kingsland, Piano

Song for the Piano (reprise)

Fanny Mendelssohn