# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 10**

**10:45 service**

Prelude — *All Things Bright and Beautiful* — Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Welcome — Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Opening Hymn — *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* — UMH 173

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return
'til thy mercy's beams I see;
'til they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Call to Worship — Tim Crockett

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.
**Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.**
We need not fear.
**In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.**
Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.
**Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.**

Children's Moment — Caryn Cranston

Life of the Community — Chuck Hebel, Nancy Glaser

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer — Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

**Receive these gifts this morning, O God,**
**author of every good gift.**
**Out of the bounty of our hearts,**
**we respond with faithful generosity and love.**
**May these gifts become blessings for others**
**as they have been blessing for us. Amen.**

Offertory — *Verset* — Louis Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* — UMH No. 94

Pastoral Prayer — Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Loving Mother God, we are grateful for this opportunity to call you our Mother. We are grateful that you are God and we can call on you day and night. You are never too busy to take our call, to hear our cry, or wipe the tears from our eyes. Lord, we give you praise, for you assure us that weeping may be for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Lord we pray that you take our mourning and turn it into morning. Breathe your Holy Spirit within us so that when morning comes may we be found revived, renewed, reconstructed, and repurposed. Lord we receive your breath of life right now. Increase our faith in your wisdom and grace as you impart it to us. Mother God, we bring our praise and petitions before you knowing that you will use us to work them to our good.

It's morning, and we praise you for our earthly mothers and caretakers.
Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us, and women who have treated us as their own children.
Holy Mother, teach us how to be good mothers, cherishing and protecting the children among us.
Help us mother lovingly, fairly, wisely, and with great joy.
Help us to raise our children to be the people they are born to be.
Mother God, we need your comfort today.
Some amongst us are missing their mothers, some are missing children, some are parted by distance or death.
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.
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.
Help our congregation to be a space where people can feel mothered, their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.
Lord comfort the weeping mothers whose children have been murdered, mothers whose children have taken their life because they couldn't take life anymore.
Finally, we pray today for mothers in this country and around the world; mothers who cannot feed their children, and do whatever they must to feed and shelter their children; mothers who are homeless or without a homeland; mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of gangs and gangsters, bombs and bullets; mothers who rock their children to sleep amidst the sounds of terror and terrorists; mothers who mourn for their slain who gave their lives for freedom.

Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty.
God our Mother, loving us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known, hear this preacher's prayer this day. And everyone prayed the Lord's prayer:

## Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Anthem *As Truly as God is Our Father, So Just as Truly is He Our Mother*

Music Composition: Henry Mollicone (b. 1946)
Anthem Text: Julian of Norwich (c. 1342-1416)

As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother.
In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being;
In our merciful Mother we are remade and restored.
Our fragmented lives are knit together.
And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace,
To the Holy Spirit we are made whole.
It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood.
It is I, the wisdom of Motherhood.
It is I, the light and grace of holy love.
It is I, the Trinity.
I am the sovereign goodness in all things.
It is I who teach you to love.
It is I who teach you to desire.
It is I who am the reward of all true desiring.
All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.

## Scripture *John 14:1-14* Gladys Kalas

## Hymn *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* UMH 452, v. 1-3

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine:
now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

Message *Home Is Where the Heart Is* Reverend Ann Duncan

Closing Hymn *Giving Thanks to Mothers*

(tune of “Joyful, Joyful we adore thee” UMH #89)
Words by Rev. Rebecca Kelly 2006

Lord, we thank you for the mothers
By whose faith we come to Thee;
Who reflect Your grace and mercy
In their faces, You, we see.
Honor mothers, God commands us,
Show respect and loving care,
Instruments You made to guide us
Mothers who Christ’s love doth share.

Through the ages, leading forward
Moms who serve to glorify.
Eve’s first born starts all the races,
Child in pain sparks Hagar’s cry.
Hannah’s prayers and Mary’s song
Tell acceptance of God’s will.
King of grace and peace and patience
These the lessons mothers tell.

Lord, we thank you for the mothers
Who have brought us forth on earth.
Giving life that we may worship
Savior born of Virgin birth.
All created by Holy Maker
Workmanship beyond compare
For the gift of moms, we thank Thee
Praise to You, we do declare.

Benediction Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

*Alleluia* UMH 186

Postlude *Toccata Brevis* Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)