

Flowers given by: **Kayla Taylor**, in honor of her mother **Nancy Taylor**

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: Jesus said,

Many: As a mothering hen longs to gather her brood, so I embrace you.

One: In the midst of shifting sand, Queen Esther was called to summons courage and shine her light when she heard these words,

Many: "Who knows? Perhaps you are *here* for just a time as this."

One: And we rejoice with Mary who bravely and boldly became the God-bearer bringing God's love incarnate in the birth of Jesus.

Many: On this Mother's Day Sunday, we celebrate women whose love have left fingerprints upon our lives.

One: We honor God's light that shines in our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, daughters, pastors, teachers, colleagues, and companions in faith.

Many: It is good to be here today! Alleluia and Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O God, Whose Steadfast Love

#426

O God, whose steadfast love true motherhood has blessed; who shields the infant small upon its mother's breast: Embrace us, too, O God, our God, and hold us in your loving arms, and hold us in your loving arms.

Your promises, O God, so sure throughout the years, have lived in mothers' hearts, have bloomed from mothers' tears. So Sarah laughed, and Hannah wept, and singing Mary secrets kept, and singing Mary secrets kept.

In your great love, O God, full parenthood is known: a father mourns his child, a mother's strength is shown. Let parent's faithful lives unbind your love that through them we might find Christ's deeper love for humankind.

May your household of faith one family become, that love may be increased and none may be alone; That mother's love and father's care and children's joy we all may share, and children's joy we all may share.

*OPENING PRAYER

God, Your giving knows no ending. We give thanks for women in our lives who have embraced and embodied Your presence. We give thanks for women, sometimes beyond our family trees, who nourished and nurtured us. We name aloud now people who made Your love real to us as children and teenagers:

Name aloud your mothers/relatives whose love raised you.

We name aloud our teachers and mentors who shared wisdom, were there when we stumbled, and whose presence blessed us in more ways than we know.

Name aloud women who shaped your life.

We name aloud today women in our church who faithfully lead, guide, inspire, infuse, and show us Your love.

Name aloud your sisters in faith at this church.

For all these saints, O God, we give thanks for the Sarahs, Hannahs, Naomis, Ruths, Esthers, Elizabeths, Marys, and Lydias who shine forth a living faith in such a time as this. Alleluia and Amen!!

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Romans 12, selected verses

²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and whole. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

SERMON

More than a Chore Chart

ANTHEM

I Give to You a New Commandment

Peter Nardone

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe

and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us, unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, May 14, 2023

MOTHER'S DAY – Please join our COLLAGE (LGBTQ) group after worship today for a luncheon celebrating Mothers and Mother like figures. **ALL are welcome.**

You are cordially invited to a Graduation Celebration for Olivia Bixby in Syster Hall after worship on May 21st. The love of this church has shaped Olivia in so many ways. From Thursday Knights programs to Christmas pageants to Sunday School teachers ~ your presence has blessed her. We invite you to celebrate as Olivia graduates from Riverview High School. She will be attending Florida State University beginning in June (summer) 2023. Come and help us bless Olivia in her future endeavors.

NEXT UCC MEN'S BREAKFAST ON MAY 20 ~ The UCC Men's breakfast series continues on Saturday, May 20 and all the men of the congregation, new and longtime members, are invited to join for breakfast in Syster Hall then. Coffee will be on at 8 am and breakfast served at 8:30 am. After breakfast, Dick Miller will present a short and informative program about the MOTE aquarium. You may register by Thursday, May 18 by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044. We hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Staffing Team, we want to let you know **Sue Fields** has resigned as our Business Manager so she can enjoy retirement and other opportunities. Sue will continue to serve on our Finance Team as well as help around the church. We are grateful to Sue for sharing her talents in Human Resources, helping Robin Reich to craft our Financial Guidelines, develop our 2023 budget, and countless other tasks over the last year and half. Moving forward, Staffing will be searching for someone to assist with counting offerings, overseeing intentions of giving, and helping with income to the church. If you are interested, or know someone, please see Pastor Wes or Dick Miller, chair of Staffing Team.

Pastor Wes will be on vacation **May 22nd through May 29th.** Please contact the church office if you have a pastoral concern.

Sacred Conversations on Race ~ The group will remain hybrid ~ in person in the Oasis Center OR on Zoom at 3 pm the Second and Fourth Wednesday. Upcoming Topics: **May 24:** “Let’s get to the root of racial injustice” - TED TALKS by Dr Megan Ming Francis; **June 14:** “A Conversation about Growing Up Black” and “A Conversation with White People on Race” – NY Times Op-Docs; **June 28:** “The Danger of a Single Story” – TED TALK by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) News ~ Our COLLAGE (LGBTQ + Allies) group will meet on zoom on **Tuesday, 23rd at 11 am**. This is a wonderful chance to connect! **SILVER PRIDE, June 10th** ~ –**COLLAGE** will be hosting a table at the Sarasota Senior Center. This is a wonderful way to reach out to LGBTQ+ seniors and their Allies. Please sign up to help offer a warm welcome to those at this event. **COLLAGE LUNCHEON, June 11th ~ Mayomi Fowowe-Makinde**, a Gay man born and raised in Nigeria where he lived in constant fear for his life, will be our special speaker. When he was outed by a family member, he escaped from his native country to avoid imprisonment. (It is illegal to be Gay in Nigeria and family members face 10 years of imprisonment if they know a family member is Gay and do not report it.) The presentation is open to all. Please sign up in advance if you want a box lunch.

May 28th ~ Pentecost Sunday ~ wear **RED** to worship ~ **ONE service at 11 a.m.** with **Rev. Dr. David Pitt preaching**. Rev. Dr. Pitt is a member of our church and a retired UCC pastor who served in a variety of ministries from chaplaincy to local church. Rev. Dr. Pitt is a member of our Lay Visitation Ministry and will guide us as we celebrate the birthday of the church.

Please join members of the Green Team on **May 28 right after the 11:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary and online**, when Rabbi Brenner Glickman of Temple Emanu-El and Bill Johnson of Brilliant Harvest will talk about the experience of Temple Emanu-El adopting 70% solar power for their campus. The Sarasota synagogue has a fascinating story to tell about how they came to the decision to go solar and how the process played out. Don't miss this important talk! See you on the 28th!

Wear Orange on June 4th to Remember Victims of Gun Violence ~~ Hadiya Pendleton was 15 years old, standing in a Chicago park and chatting with school friends a decade ago when she was shot and killed. She was not the intended target. The week before, she had performed at events for [President Obama's second inauguration](#), and Michelle Obama attended her funeral. Hadiya's friends decided to wear orange after Hadiya's death to raise awareness about gun violence. One friend explained: "Orange is basically the color hunters wear to signal to other hunters not to shoot them. So that's why we're wearing it — to say, 'Don't shoot me'." Since then, activists throughout the country have worn orange on a day or a weekend in June to raise awareness about the pandemic of gun deaths in this country. Our church council has agreed as it did last year to designate a special Wear Orange Day to remember the many victims. We encourage you to wear orange in any form – a shirt, a dress, a tie, shoes, a hat, whatever you have – **at services here on June 4**. We also joined a number of organizations in requesting that the city and county commissions in Sarasota and Manatee approve their own proclamations for Wear Orange Day. Thank you for your participation. **Let's fill the pews with orange, the color of safety, on June 4th!**

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 14 ~ Mother's Day!!

Sunday Worship, 9 am, in sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

COLLAGE Mother's Day lunch, noon, Syster Hall

Monday, May 15

Growing and Caring Meeting, 4 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Tuesday, May 16

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 pm, Oasis Center
Church Council, 6:30 pm, Oasis and Zoom

Wednesday, May 17

Wednesday Bible Study, 11 am, Hybrid, Oasis Center and Zoom
Stewardship Committee, 1 pm, Zoom
COLLAGE Advisory Group, 3 pm

Thursday, May 18

Staffing Team, 3 pm, Syster Hall Library

Saturday, May 20

Men's Breakfast, 8 am, Syster Hall

Sunday, May 21

Sunday Worship, 9 am, in sanctuary
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online
Olivia Bixby Graduation Party, noon, Syster Hall

*We encourage you to subscribe to the weekly **Midweek Message** via your email
to keep connected with activities in the church.*