



**“Mothering God”  
Sixth Sunday After Easter  
May 9, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship  
and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

***Our Church’s Mission Statement***

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor  
Angela Spialek, Office Administrator  
Nicole Finney, Child Care  
Sue Sackett, Custodian  
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist  
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

• 517-627-2336 • [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

## Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.*

### MOMENT FOR CENTERING

#### GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

### INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BELLS/CHIMES

#### INTROIT

“On This Day, O Beautiful Mother”

*(Judy Nielsen)*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God speaks to the heart,

**Many: Offering compassion and hope.**

One: God enlivens the mind,

**Many: Inviting curiosity and wonder.**

One: God awakens all spirits,

**Many: Fostering sacred connection.**

One: God nurtures our strength,

**Many: Creating unimagined possibilities.**

One: God calls the whole world,

**Many: Inspiring extravagant love.**

#### OPENING HYMN #31

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

#### GATHERING PRAYER *(unison)*

**Many: Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wondrous deeds. Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### ANTHEM

“What Brings Us Together”

*(Brandon Frost & Chuck Byam)*

### FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

FIRST OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 49:13-18 NRSV (pg. 665)

SECOND OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Hosea 11: 1-4 NRSV (pg. 827)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13: 31-35 NRSV (pg. 950)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #17

“To You, Oh God, All Creatures Sing”

**To you, O God, day after day,  
Your planet earth in every way,  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower  
show forth your glory and power,  
singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

HOMILY

“Mothering God”  
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“On this Day, O Beautiful Mother”  
(Judy Nielsen)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

*(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)*

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.  
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart [hartacre3@aol.com](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com)*

CLOSING HYMN #32

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful  
In the Lord, I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”  
(Chuck Byam)

Please join us for a short fellowship time on Zoom at 12 noon

## CREDITS

- Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 732777-A. All rights reserved and from CCLI, License #2091058, and Streaming License #20709045
- Service for Easter 6 Year B is written by the Rev. Ellis Arnold. Ellis's energy for ministry in the UCC gets channeled into collaboration with people of faith who strive to transform not just the three feet around them, but also their communities and the world into a more just, generous, liberated place. © 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- **Parker Palmer's Lord's Prayer**
- **On This Day, O Beautiful Mother**  
(#84153, One License, Text: 77 77 with refrain; Rohr's Favorite Catholic Melodies, 1857. Music: Louis Lambillotte, SJ, 1796-1855. Contributors: Louis Lambillotte)
- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**  
(#00118, One License #732777-A, Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taize, Tune: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.)
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **All Things Bright and Beautiful**  
(#94233, One License, Text: 76 76 with refrain; Cecil Francis H. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt. Music: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958. Contributors: ROYAL OAK, Cecil Alexander, Journeysongs Second Edition 632)
- **To You, Oh God, All Creatures Sing**  
(#88283, One License, Contributors: The New Century Hymnal, Tune: © 1993, Pilgrim Press, The)
- **God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale**  
(#01556, One License, Contributors: Carl Schalk, Tune: © 1983 by GIA Publications, Inc.)
- **What Brings Us Together**  
(#93026, One License, Contributors: Jay Althouse)

---

## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Troy Arient

**Fresh Perspective** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Homily** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Pianist** – Chuck Byam

**Organist** – Judy Nielsen

---

# All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.*

*Unison  
Refrain*

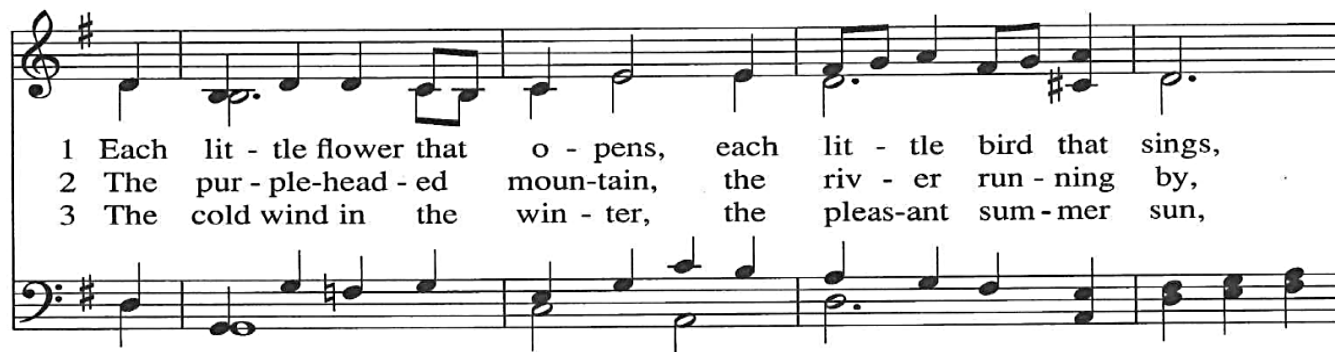


All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

*Last time, end*



All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,

*to Refrain*



God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

*This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.*

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
English melody  
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915



## God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry  
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise  
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save  
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life  
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace  
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.  
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Music Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

### **Hosea 11:1-4 (NRSV)**

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.  
The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,  
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

### **Isaiah 49:13-18 (NRSV)**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me."  
Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.  
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.  
Your builders outdo your destroyers,  
and those who laid you waste go away from you.  
Lift up your eyes all around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.

### **Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"