

*Order of Worship*  
*SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON*  
9:30 am – May 14, 2023

*Participating Live?*

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*Reflection*

Douglas Wagner

Kyle Hanks, organ

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**GREETING**

**HYMN**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

UMH 62

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public Domain. Alt. harmony: Samuel Metzger. ©2010 Morning Star Music Publishers / Birnamwood Publications. Song #10-255.9.

Words: Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; trans. By William H. Draper, 1925, adapt. 1987 ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House. Song #88754. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, O praise ye! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam!

**Refrain:** O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain, by which all creatures ye sustain, O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice! **Refrain.**

3. O sister water, flowing clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight, **Refrain.**

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show! **Refrain.**

5. All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care! **Refrain.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Linda Ottsen, liturgist

Search for God, you seekers of the way.

**Grope for truth, you disciples of wisdom.**

Where shall we go to find what we seek?

**And where shall we look for answers?**

Wait patiently for the Advocate, the Spirit of truth.

**The Spirit reveals the hidden mysteries of God.**

Wait in hope and love.

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**HYMN**

*O God Beyond Our Praising*

TFWS 2009

Music: Gustav T. Holst, Public Domain.

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1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

2. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our king; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise

### MOTHER'S DAY LITANY

We thank you, God, for our mothers, and for those who were like mothers to us.

**For those who nurtured, supported, and enabled us to grow and mature in faith.**

We thank you for those who have been like mothers to children not their own, offering unconditional love and guidance to the children in their midst.

**We thank you for the gift of creativity that you planted within us, men and women alike, that enable us by your spirit to give birth to a new creation.**

We pray for those who parent children, for the joy and challenge of their vocation;

**Grant them the courage and grace to parent to the best of their ability, knowing that when their best efforts fall short, you offer your grace and forgiveness.**

We also join our hearts with those for whom today is a day of grief and mourning:

**Those who have lost their mothers, or are estranged from their mothers; for those who grieve the loss of a child, or for whom motherhood is a hope denied.**

O God of compassion, who took on our earthly frame and shared our sufferings in Jesus, send your healing spirit upon us, and empower us to deal tenderly with one another.

**Thank you for being our Heavenly Parent, and for teaching us how to love and care for one another.**

**Amen.**

(adapted, Rev. Jeff Krehbiel)

### PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 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.**

### CHORAL OFFERING

*Send Down the Fire*

arr. Mark Hayes

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson-Director; Kyle Hanks-Pianist

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### SCRIPTURE

*1 Peter 3: 13-22; Acts 17: 22-31 (NRSV)*

Linda Ottsen, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE

Pastor Matt McPhee

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

UMH 328

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song #7909

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Generous and loving God, we remember. We remember the others who have encouraged us. Many people have taught us. We have been forgiven. We have been loved. We admit that we haven't done it all ourselves. In a way, this offering is a response to all that has come before us. We pray that the money will be used to encourage, to teach, to forgive, and to love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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### HYMN

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

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1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.
2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.
3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*A Trumpet Fancy*  
Kyle Hanks, organ

Leon Nelson

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## **Send Down the Fire**

Send down the fire of your justice, send down the rains of your love; come, send down the Spirit, breathe life  
in your people, and we shall be people of God.  
Call us to be your compassion, teach us the song of your love; give us hearts that sing, give us deeds that  
ring, make us ring with the song of your love.  
Call us to learn of your mercy, teach us the way of your peace; give us hearts that feel, give us hands that  
heal, make us walk in the way of your peace.  
Call us to answer oppression, teach us the fire of your truth; give us righteous souls, 'til your justice rolls,  
make us burn with the fire of your truth.  
Call us to witness your kingdom, give us the presence of Christ; may your holy light keep us shining bright,  
ever shine with the presence of Christ.  
Send down the fire of your justice, send down the rains of your love; come, send down the Spirit, breathe life  
in your people, and we shall be people of God.  
Send down the fire!

## ***Prayer Requests***

**Chatsworth West UMC—Pastor Eric Iki**

**First UMC of Ventura—Pastor Matt McPhee**

Family of Billie Dowd who passed away May 9

Tom Hundley's brother Ed had a liver transplant this week. Prayers for the whole family

Kate Stradling—facing another surgery—prayers for doctors and her family

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.