



**Harmony United Methodist Church
May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**8:30 and 11:00 Indoor In-Person Worship
8:30 Worship Livestream YouTube Channel “Harmony UMCVA”**

**WELCOME
PRELUDE**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sandy Bruner

Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!
Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!
God has remembered God’s faithful ones.
God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!
Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!
Rejoice, for God is truly with us. AMEN.

PRAYER

Sandy Bruner

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word.
AMEN.

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Steve Evick

O God of Love, all other loves excelling,

We are privileged to be your eternal family, to be children of such a parent, loving us so perfectly. On this beautiful Mother's Day morning we come to you celebrating the gift of family. We see your glory and your wisdom in the diversity of that gift—a diversity that has always existed. We pray for small families like Elizabeth and Zechariah and their precious only son, John, and for large families like Jacob's, with his twelve sons. We ask your blessing on multigenerational families like Timothy's, whose mother and grandmother raised him in the faith. Bless single person families like Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. We pray especially for broken families like King David's. And for those like Ruth and Naomi who came through the pain of loss to establish new family ties.

We see in your Holy Word and in our unholy world all kinds of families with every sort of challenge, joy, failure, and pain. You haven't given up on families, Lord, so help us to support them in all their shapes and situations. Families are not perfect places, Lord, no matter how hard we try, because we are imperfect people. We need your kind of love for each other. We need your kind of clean-slate forgiveness for each other and that's hard. There are folks whose greatest hurts were family blows, who just can't imagine forgiving or forgetting. We come together to ask You to be a healer of damaged relationships and painful memories. Show us how to deal with our grief and regrets and anger. Make us grateful when we have been parented wisely and well. Remind us all that we always have You and this covenant family, a home away from home. You are like a mother who will not abandon the child in her arms, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home.

For You are love, and when we love, we are like You. Lord, we would reflect the love to our earthly family and to your eternal family and to your whole precious creation which You loved enough to send your only Son to save. Greater love has no one. And it is to You and in His dear name we pray, and offer the prayer he taught us to say, saying...

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 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Sandy Bruner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sandy Bruner

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Steve Evick

Nehemiah 9:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, ¹⁸ even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

1 John 4:7-21 (NIV)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

APOSTLES' CREED

Sandy Bruner

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Steve Evick

As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

UMH 664

*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 souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us,
and love shall unite us to work for Gods'
kingdom and answer the call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever living,
the tasks of our every day 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 give honor to Christ and that
name which we bear.*

CLOSING COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Steve Evick

Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet. May God's peace be with you all. AMEN

POSTLUDE