



*"Children of the Earth" Eva Rybakken*

**Christ Church** **UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark and Matthew Lawrenz, Musician

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

*Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! On this fifth Sunday of Easter and ten-thousandth day of quarantine, we might have troubled hearts. This Sunday is Mother's Day, which is a day of celebration for some and grief for others. This year, many of our emotions around Mother's Day have been compounded by stay-at-home orders. I think today's scriptures could not be timelier for us in these coronavirus days. Psalm 31 speaks about sheltering-in-place with God. In John 14, Jesus' parting words to his disciples have to deal with not having troubled hearts. The twin conditions of love and grief mark this day that God has made.*

## Words of Welcome

### Opening Litany

One: Jesus said to all people:

All: "Come!"

One: To the mothers and children, he said:

All: "Come, follow me!"

One: To those who longed to be mothered, he said:

All: "You too, come, follow me!"

One: To those without mothers or children, he said:

All: "Come!"

**Come, let us worship the God who nurtures, comforts, teaches, and loves us all as family!**

### A Song for Today

### Celtic Hymn

arr. Stamm

### A Time for the Child in Us

### [God's House](#)

Sparkhouse Press



### Old Testament

### [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)

*Stephen is considered to be one of the first martyrs after Christ. In the Book of Acts chapter 7, Stephen refused to stop proclaiming the name of Jesus. He declares his vision of Christ in heaven – seated at God's right hand. Because of this witness, Stephen is stoned to death. As he was dragged to the streets and stoned, Stephen quoted Psalm 31, a psalm of deliverance from one's enemies. In this psalm, the psalmist commits their spirit to God, knowing that God has saved them from true death. The psalmist knows that their hope and future is in God's hands – and they pray for God to deliver them from their enemies. Stephen ultimately was killed for his belief in Christ. We may never know the fate of the psalmist. We can take heart that during this time of sheltering-in-place, God is with us. We can take refuge in God's goodness.*

"Mother Hen" Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Pittman, Lauren Wright.

## Responsive Reading

One: Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms: As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13).

**All: Loving God, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. God knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children: Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15).

**All: Loving God, thank you for your tender care.**

One: David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his mother-God like a child safe in loving arms: But I have stilled and quietened my soul; like a child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me (Psalm 131:2).

**All: Loving God, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing (Matt 23:37).

**All: Loving God, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care: ...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children (1 Thess 2:7).

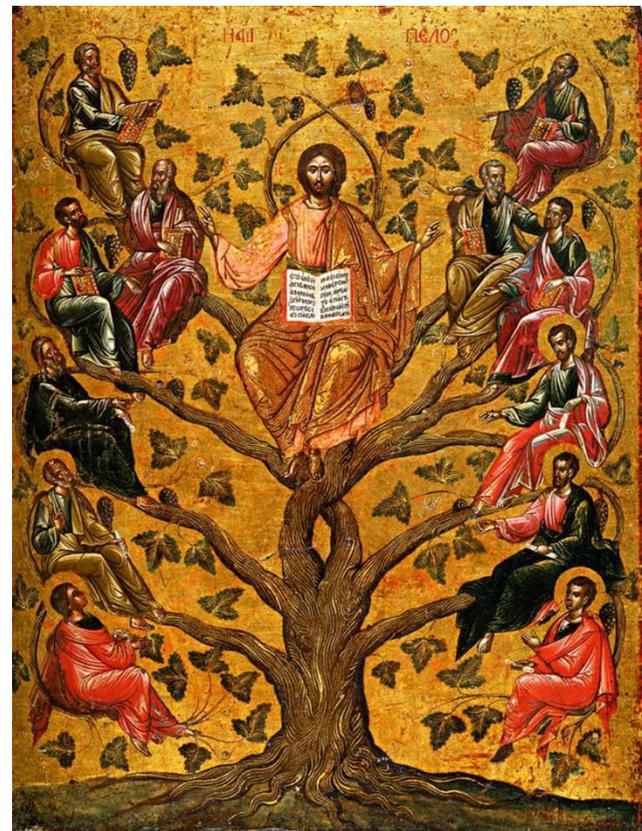
**All: Loving God, thank you for your tender care. Amen.**

## The Gospel

### [John 14:1-14](#)

*This scripture is one of several farewell discourses where Jesus says goodbye to his friends and prepares them for life after he departs from their presence. This scripture, commonly read at Christian funerals, assures Jesus' followers that there will be room for them in the reign of God. At previous points in John's Gospel, Jesus told the disciples that they would not be able to follow him. In this scripture, Jesus now tells his followers that he is the way, the truth, and the life. He reveals his identity to Thomas and Philip by telling them that anyone who knows him knows God. He speaks to them in grief and love: do not let your hearts be troubled. In our grief and love, we need these words today.*

*"Jesus as the True Vine" 16<sup>th</sup> century panel from the Byzantine and Christian Museum*



Homily

Risen: Grief and Love

Rev. Dan Stark

A Song of Response  
Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer  
Passing the Peace

Offertoire

arr. Lemmens

Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. We may be separated today, but the Body is unbroken. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you!

A Song for Sending

Trumpet Tune

arr. Albinoni

Sending (Sung)

Go, My Children

LSB #922

All: Go, My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own.

In My love's baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing-  
You are My own.

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