



GRREAT MOTHER by Denise Kester

*No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, all of you is welcome here.*

UCC Petaluma - a Community of Love in Service
Sunday, May 12, 2024

This Week's Loving Action: Care

*a justice-based commitment not to being right,
but rather to getting it more right with and for others*

GATHERING LIGHT

Heidi Jones

The Rainbow Connection

by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher

CALL TO PRESENCE

Dorothy Wilcox

One: Let us ascend in this hour, into to the diverse
tapestry that is mothering

**All: We honor all whose loving action knows
no sides, no borders, and whose
sacrifices are many**

One: May we also embrace the multiplicity that is
mothering, whose limits and shadows are a part
of every soul's evolution

**All: Let us choose again and again the family of
mothers we need from the Logos
that is within us, between us & beyond us**

SING

What the World Needs Now

*by Burt Bacharach and Hal David
~ see insert & on screen~*

RESPONSE TO PRAYERFUL SILENCE

Rev. Jason Hubbard

The Serenity Prayer

by Rienhold Niebuhr

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time

Enjoying one moment at a time

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Amen

SACRED READINGS

2Kings 2:9-10 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” 10 He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.”

Luke 24:45-49 Jesus went on to open their minds regarding their sacred readings, showing them how to interpret their story in this way. He said, “You can see now how it is written that the Messiah dies, rises on the third day, and then a total life-change rooted in forgiveness is proclaimed to all, everyone - starting from here, from Jerusalem, the city of peace. You’re the first to hear and see it. You’re the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what the Life has promised to you, so stay here in the city until it arrives, until you’re equipped with power beyond your self.”

A CIRCLE OF GENEROCITY & BLESSING SONG

We Are Family

by Sister Sledge

~ see insert & on screen~

Your Gathering Leaders Today:

Reader: Dorothy Wilcox
Accompanist: Jason Howze
Percussion: Shane Schlick
Greeters: Ann Feaver & June Goudey

Candles: Heidi Jones
Bass: Ben Dubin
AVTech: Chris Cota
Voice: Janie Miklaunus

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Ascension

by Kathleen Norris

It wasn't just wind, chasing
thin gunmetal clouds
across the loud sky;
it wasn't the feeling that
one might ascend
on that excited air,
rising like a trumpet note.

And it wasn't just my sister's water breaking,
her crying out,
the downward draw of blood and bone...

It was all of that,
the mud and new grass
pushing up through melting snow,
the lilac in bud
by my front door, bent low
by last week's ice storm.

Now the new mother, that leaky vessel,
begins to nurse her child,
beginning the long good-bye.



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What the World Needs Now

Burt Bacharach and Hal David

**What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No not just for some but for everyone**

Oh, we don't need another mountain
There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross
Enough to last till the end of time

Refrain

Oh, we don't need another meadow
There are cornfields & wheat fields enough to grow
There are sunbeams & moonbeams enough to shine
Oh listen now, if you want to know

Refrain

Oh, we don't need another river
There are waters and streams that everflow
There are harbors and deltas enough for all
Oh speak up now, if you want to grow

Refrain

We are Family

by Sister Sledge with an additional verse for the generations

**We are family, I got all my mothers with me
We are family, get up everybody and sing
We are family, I got all my kinfolk with me
We are family, get up everybody and sing**

Everyone can see we're together; as we walk on by (and)
And we fly just like birds of a feather; I won't tell no lie
All of the people around us they say,
can they be that close
Just let me state for the record
We're giving love in a family dose

Refrain

Living life is fun and we've just begun to gain our share
of this world's delights (high)
Our high hopes we had for the future
and our goal's in sight
We don't - we don't get depressed
here's what we call, our golden rule
Have faith in you and the things you do
you won't go wrong
Oh no! this our family jewel

Refrain

All the mothers they gather together
And they share their light
And they sing, just like they will never
ever stop their shinin'
All of the children, know how to play
Let them teach us now
Let's make a place of permission
Where we can always feel the Love.

Refrain