**Worship Service**

**Sunday May 9, 2021**

**Mother’s Day**

**Welcome**

Good morning and welcome to this time of online worship. I’d like to wish all the women in our congregation a happy Mother’s Day. We celebrate and give thanks for the many ways that you have expressed motherly care for others. We remember, honour and give thanks for our moms and for all the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

**Opening Prayer** – Heather Pattenden

**Call to Worship**

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Let us make known the Lord’s victory,

for God’s steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Let us sing joyful praises,

and join all creation to worship God’s holy name.

**Hymn of Praise:** Holy, holy, holy – Mary Serdaridis

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,

We confess we often find it difficult to love others as you commanded.

Though we intend to do your will, our priorities lead us in other directions.

We seek our own security before the well-being of others.

We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good.

We justify our own interests

and fail to understand the cost they take on the earth and other people.

Forgive us.

Redirect our priorities and renew our commitment to live out your love

even when it demands more of us than we expect.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Beloved of God, listen to these words of comfort, our God will never leave us nor forsake us.

God says to his people, “*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).

God’s steadfast love and mercy are new every morning.

**Musical Moment of Reflection:** When I look into your holiness – Mary Serdaridis

When I look into your holiness,

When I gaze into your loveliness,

When all things that surround become shadows in the light of you;

When I've found the joy of reaching your heart,

When my will becomes enthralled in your love,

When all things that surround become shadows in the light of you,

I worship you; I worship you.

The reason I live is to worship you.

I worship you; I worship you.

The reason I live is to worship you.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of our lives and our loving,

We thank you for the signs of resurrection that are all around us,

showing that life is stronger than death.

Give us the grace to recognize and embrace the gifts of new life

that your love makes possible for us all,

as we pray for your resurrecting power to renew the world amid all its challenges.

God of home and family,

today we thank you for our families,

especially for our mothers and grandmothers.

We are grateful for their love and attention, their hard work

and the deep hope they have cherished for each one of us.

We honour before you each mother, grandmother and great grandmother

who has died;

and we pray for all those who have felt isolated from their families

in these months of pandemic.

Reunite us in your love.

God of connections and compassion,

Today we thank you for our friends and relations,

for the neighbours and fellow citizens who help to make our lives complete.

We thank you for smiles shared, helping hands offered, commitments honoured. And we pray for all those around us who are facing particular challenges this day…

*(Keep a brief silence)*

Restore our hope with your love.

God of courage and new possibility,

Today we pray for all those who have felt life or love slipping through their fingers in the times of distancing we’ve had to endure,

and for those who have struggled with their physical or mental health,

whatever the reason.

We pray for communities trying to sort out how to recover from the pandemic

and for all those worried about their personal future.

Encourage us with your love.

God of forgiveness and renewal:

Today we pray for those whose relationships are in need of repair

and for all who work for peace and reconciliation in the face of deep divisions.

We pray for families, churches, communities and countries facing conflict,

and ask that your Spirit open hearts and minds to deeper understanding.

Reconcile us through your love.

God of love and compassion,

We take this moment of silence to offer our personal prayers to you.

Merciful and Mighty God,

We offer these prayers to you

In the name of our Lord Jesus.

Amen.

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 13:31-35 – Derrick Graham

**Sermon:** Under God’s Wings

**Hymn of Commitment:** For I’m building a people of power – Mary Serdaridis

For I’m Building A People Of Power  
And I’m Making A People Of Praise  
That Will Move Through This Land By My Spirit  
And Will Glorify My Precious Name

Build Your Church, Lord  
Make Us Strong, Lord  
Join Our Hearts, Lord, Through Your Son  
Make Us One, Lord  
In Your Body  
In The Kingdom Of Your Son

For I’m Building A People Of Power  
And I’m Making A People Of Praise  
That Will Move Through This Land By My Spirit  
And Will Glorify My Precious Name

Build Your Church, Lord  
Make Us Strong, Lord  
Join Our Hearts, Lord, Through Your Son  
Make Us One, Lord  
In Your Body  
In The Kingdom Of Your Son

**Benediction**

God says these words to us,

*“As a mother comforts her child,*

*so I will comfort you”* (Isaiah 66:13).

Go now in the comfort and peace

of the One who gave birth to us.

Go in the assurance

that the Comforter is with us always.

Go to give comfort and peace to others.

Amen.