Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother’s Day)
10AM, May 9, 2021

Come hydrate your soul at St John’s:
A community of connections across generations.
Connect to God through worship, service,
real life and tradition.
It’s the Merry Mary Month of May, when at St. John’s we joyfully celebrate Mary, mothers, girls, and women in our parishes. During this month, our hymns, offertory anthems, instrumental music, will highlight women’s texts and compositions. Women from the congregation will serve as the lectors and intercessors for the month. As you enjoy the music, readings, and prayers from our liturgy this month, we hope that you will be inspired to reflect on the importance of the feminine in the Church and in the world and the ongoing struggle of women for justice and full inclusion.

As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are thankful for your presence!

Have a prayer request that you’d like to be shared on Sunday during the prayers? Would you like a blessing for a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion of thanksgiving? During the service, please text your prayer request, birthday, anniversary or occasion of thanksgiving to (415) 275-0115.

Pray for the needs and concerns of our congregation by viewing our online Prayer List and Prayer Wall.

Please help St. John’s continue to offer support and presence during these challenging times by giving generously. Click here to give.

Today after the 10am service, please join us here for coffee hour on Zoom.

To remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers, please contact Nancy Strauch via email or at 510-237-5021.

ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN BY
Rick Riede
   in loving memory of his mother Evelyn E. Riede
Suzan and Jay Sweet
   In loving memory of their mothers, Dorothy Sweet and Terry Journey

Prelude
Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Welcome
After the welcome announcement a bell will sound, signaling a few moments of prayer and silence.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn
Let All things now living

Voices Found 107 (The Ash Grove)
Easter Acclamation

Please join in the traditional Easter acclamation.

Presider        Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People          The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Presider and People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Gloria

*Please join in singing the Gloria three times*

\[Glo - ria, glo - ria, in ex - cel - sis De - o!\]

\[Glo - ria, glo - ria, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.\]

**Collect of the Day**

*Presider*  
God be with you.

*People*  
And also with you.

*Presider*  
Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**First Reading**

*1 John 5:1-6*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*Reader*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People*  
Thanks be to God.
Psalm 98
All are invited to join in praying this psalm together.

1 Sing a new song to the Lord, *
   who has done marvelous things.

2 Whose mighty hand and holy arm *
   have won the victory.

3 O Lord, you have made known the victory; *
   you have openly shown your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

4 You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
   and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory, O God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
   lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
   with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
   shout with joy before our sovereign, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
   the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
   and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
   who is coming to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall God judge the world *
    and the peoples with equity.

Gospel Acclamation
You are invited to stomp your feet along with the words “trampling down.”

\(\text{(three times)}\)

\[\text{Christ is ri- sen from the dead, tramp-ling down death by death, and on}\]

\[\text{those in the tombs be- stow- ing life, be-stow-ing life!}\]
Holy Gospel

*Priest*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
*People*    Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

*Priest*    The Gospel of the Lord.
*People*    Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

*The Rev. Heather Erickson*

*An moment of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

The Creed

*A video of our choir singing the creed will play. Please join in singing.*
1. I believe in God Almighty, Author of all things that be.
   Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea.

2. I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified:
   Taken from the cross, was buried—True Life there had truly died.

3. I believe in God’s own Spirit, binding all the saints within
   One Church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin.

4. I believe in God’s Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ.
   Raised up from the grave, then ascended to God right hand.

5. I believe that on the third day Christ was breaking of death’s chain.
   Gives the life that’s ever lasting. This the faith that I have claimed.
Prayers of the People

Adapted from Women’s Uncommon Prayers

Mothering God, today we give thanks to you for the divine gift of motherhood in all its forms. We thank you that you are our mother: you created us and nurtured us, and again and again we return to you to be healed and restored. Receive our prayers, as we respond to each petition with, “Hear our prayer.”

We pray in gratitude for our own mothers. We thank you for their unconditional love, their unselfish care for us, for the late nights and early mornings, for the joy our mothers bring us every day. We pray for God’s peace for all those who have mothers who were not able to offer this unconditional love, for those who are in conflict with their mothers, and for those who had to distance themselves from their mothers.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those among us who are parents, that in parenting they would find a deeper connection to the God who loves us with a love that is fiercely maternal.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; and for all mothers who have lost children.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all women and men who have mothered others in any way, especially for foster and adoptive parents. For those who have been our substitute mothers and for those who step into the parental role for children who need to be loved. We pray for all those in our lives who are in need of love and care, particularly…

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the earth, the mother that bore us and provides us with our sustenance.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose mothers have passed away, and for all those who have died, that they would find rest in the arms of God. We pray especially for…

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayers that have been texted are added

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. Amen.

Peace

You are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord. This is also a traditional time for Christians to seek reconciliation with those whom they have hurt and those who have hurt them.

Announcements
HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem
During this time of uncertainty, St. John’s particularly needs your help to continue to offer care and support to our community. You can give online here.

Mothering God
Jean Wiebe Janzen & Sharon Marion Hershey
Betsy Bennett-Smith

Great Thanksgiving
The people remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks,
all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

...Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

In the middle of the Eucharistic prayer, the Presider says:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues with the prayer, and then says

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People AMEN
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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread
Presider       Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People        Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!
Presider       Holy things for holy people.

Administration of Communion
The Church has always believed that to desire communion with Jesus in the bread and wine is to receive it on a spiritual level, even when circumstances prevent a bite of bread or sip of wine. In the silence, you are invited to meditate on the gift of Jesus’ presence in and with us, offered in the bread and wine and received by faith.

Postcommunion Prayer for a Pandemic
Please stand or kneel.
Let us pray.

God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Savior, our true Mother who feeds us and gives us eternal life. Though we cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that we have received the sacrament of Christ’s presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ’s passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing
The presider offers God’s blessing.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Occasions of Thanksgiving
All those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and occasions of thanksgiving are invited to come forward.

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God.
May God's powerful hands support you.
May God's guiding hands lead you.
May God's loving hands enfold you.
We rejoice in the hands of God. *Amen.*

**Closing Hymn**

All things bright and beautiful

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**Hymnal 405, vv 1&2 (Royal Oak)**

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**Dismissal**

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People*  
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

**Postlude**

Tambourin Allegro  

Eliza Turner (1700-1765)
St John’s Episcopal Church

Our Vision:
St. John’s will be a spiritual home that welcomes all, loves and respects all, and serves all in Christ’s name

Our Mission:
We pray, worship and celebrate the Gospel
Responding to the needs of our communities
While building relationships to support us on our journey of faith

Bishop of California: The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus
Rector: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams,
Associate Priest: The Rev. Heather Erickson
Assisting: The Revs. Skip Fotch, Jan Hickman West, and Bill Rankin

Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Joanna Benskin
Director of Music: Dr. David Montgomery
Organist: Cheryl Ziedrich
Choir section leader: Betsy Bennett-Smith
Church Administrator: Virginia Kosydar
Youth Minister: Tom Fregoso
Director of Children’s Ministry: Sandra Pathik
Treasurer: Susan Aley
Director of Stewardship: Emily McFarland
Bookkeeper: Henry Auriti
Vestry: President: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
Senior Warden: Jennifer Jones
Junior Warden: Kathryn Supinski
Genny Biggs, Joannie Ericson, Maya Farhoud, Becky Hlebasko, Kerry Hoeveler, Paul Kaplan, Tim McCandless, Alden Mills, Mike O’Brien, Chris Russell, Jaco Sadie