



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

The Forth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day
Dare to Dance Again
May 8, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Lord of the Dance
Public domain

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.
"I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.**

Pastor: This is the call! We lean into this day with the strength we have.

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Pastor: God sends out a call that will not let us go.

People: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

Pastor: If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of love and set out anyway.

People: For we are called to dance again!

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.
"I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.**

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

People: And also with you!

*You are invited to turn to the people around you and wave to each other as a sign
of graceful greetings this day.*

***Hymn**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth

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**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future, what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

Litany for Mother's Day

Pastor: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

People: Thank God for mothers!

Pastor: Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

People: Thank God for my mother!

Pastor: For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

People: Thank God for the mothers of the past.

Pastor: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

People: Thank God for mothers!

Pastor: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

People: Thank God for the mothers of today.

Pastor: For all the women who are expecting but aren't quite mothers yet!

People: Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

Pastor: For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

People: Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

Pastor: For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

People: Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

Pastor: For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

People: Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

All: We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.

***Prayer of our Savior**

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Anthem

My Song Will Be for You Forever
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Children's Moment

Scriptures

Exodus 2:1-4, 15:19-21

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. ²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Micah 6:4

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Miriam Danced"

***Hymn**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us
Words by Daniel Bechtel, music by William P. Rowan
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**Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.**

**Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.**

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.**

**When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.**

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Glory, Glory Hallelujah
African-American spiritual
Public domain

**Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.**

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light of God
South African song
Public domain

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, O we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, O we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing, O we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, O we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.**

**We are dancing, O we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, O we are dancing in the light of God.**

*Benediction

Postlude

Verset #5
By Leon Boellmann
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*Please stand as you are able, **Bolded Font** to be read by all