



Bellflower UMC

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday Of Easter

## ENTRANCE

GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING 

177. He Is Lord

**He is Lord, he is Lord!**

**He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!**

**Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

We are the people of God.

Together we are family.

I am married, and single  
and in a covenant relationship.

**We are the people of God.**

**Together we are family.**

I was married,  
and in a holy union,  
and never married,  
and married twice,  
and widowed.

**We are the people of God.**

**Together we are family.**

I am older  
and younger,

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<sup>1</sup> 2001, *Liturgy Outside*, <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=403>

and inbetween,  
facing my first serious relationship,  
knowing the joy of love,  
enduring betrayal,  
tasting the grief of a dying partner.

**We are the people of God.**

**Together we are family.**

I am an only child,  
and have ten siblings  
and have raised two children  
and no children.

**We are the people of God.**

**Together we are family.**

I am part of a family,  
the human family  
the family of faith  
my family of origin  
the family of my choosing.

**We are the people of God.**

**Together we are family.**

**Let us worship God together.**

↑HYMN                      557. Blest Be the Tie That Binds

↑SCRIPTURE                      Proverbs 31:10,25-31

↑HYMN    God, We Praise You For The Women<sup>2</sup>  
(Music from #581)

Sarah laughed to hear the promise--  
God would bless her with a son;  
Sarah laughed and Sarah doubted  
till she saw what God had done.

*Refrain:*

God, we praise you for the women

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<sup>2</sup> Words: Daniel Charles Damon, 2007, © 2011 Hope Publishing Company.

who have taught us to be strong,  
who have held us, who have raised us  
with a prayer and with a song.

Pharaoh's daughter, like a mother,  
lifted Moses from a pool,  
brought him safely to the palace  
where a slave would go to school.

*Refrain*

Mary watched the killing madness  
as her son died on the cross;  
she who knew the joy of childbirth  
now was torn by bitter loss.

*Refrain*

As her life drew on toward evening,  
after she had raised her own,  
Lois held her baby grandson,  
told him of God's love made known.

*Refrain*

## SCRIPTURE

John 19:25-27

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Litany of Thanksgiving and Intercession for Mother's Day*<sup>3</sup>

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

Mothering God, we draw on the image of you as one who  
nurtures, who gathers, who protects.

We reflect upon those women who have influenced our  
own lives in so many ways, and we give thanks.

**We pray for the mothers in our lives.**

We pray for the women around the world who are working  
long days and nights to raise their children right now.

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<sup>3</sup> Peggy Emerson. (adapted) <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=403>

**We pray for the mothers around the world.**

We pray for mothers who have fled violence and difficult situations, including refugees, and who have been separated from their children, or experienced the tragedy of the death of a child.

We pray for those troubled by the prospect of motherhood, perhaps too soon, or with too few resources to care for a child.

**We pray for mothers living in uncertainty and facing the unknown.**

We pray for all the women who are joyfully expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

**Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.**

We pray for those women who have nurtured us as mothers and who are no longer with us and whom we miss dearly.

We pray for families where a mother's illness has led to an early death.

**We ask you to receive our mothers into your eternal care.**

We pray for those who step in to help with the care and nurture of the children, including extended family.

We pray for the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

**We give thanks for these mothers with hearts so big.**

We pray for those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

**We pray for strength and courage for the mothers who have faced grief and loss.**

We pray for women whose children have grown and whom they now seldom see.

**We pray for mothers who are at a distance from their children.**

We pray for all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but who remain childless.  
We pray for all the women who have chosen to not raise their own children, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

**We thank God for the mothers in spirit.**

**RESPONSE** 🎵🎵

**Hear our prayer, O LORD,  
hear our prayer, O LORD;  
incline thine ear to us,  
and grant us thy peace.**

**SERMON**

**Luke 6**

## ***THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION***

**OFFERING & PEACE**

**↑DOXOLOGY - #95** 🎵🎵

**HOLY COMMUNION**

## ***SENDING FORTH***

**BLESSING<sup>4</sup>**

The Lord bless her and keep her;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon her  
and be gracious to her;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon your mother  
and give her peace.

**POSTLUDE** 🎵🎵

**Go Now In Peace**

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<sup>4</sup> Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV), adapted

## ***Every Day With Jesus***

This year we follow a Bible reading plan called “Every Day With Jesus”. With four short readings each day, by the end of the year, we will have read the entire Bible.

2024-05-12	Judges 9:22–10:18	Psalms 56:8–13	Proverbs 13:3–4	Luke 22:24–46
2024-05-13	Judges 11:1–12:15	Psalms 57:1–6	Proverbs 13:5–6	Luke 22:47–71
2024-05-14	Judges 13:1–15:8	Psalms 57:7–11	Proverbs 13:7–8	Luke 23:1–19
2024-05-15	Judges 15:9–17:13	Psalms 58:1–5	Proverbs 13:9–10	Luke 23:20–38
2024-05-16	Judges 18:1–31	Psalms 58:6–11	Proverbs 13:11–12	Luke 23:39–56
2024-05-17	Judges 19:1–20:25	Psalms 59:1–10	Proverbs 13:13	Luke 24:1–24
2024-05-18	Judges 20:26–21:25	Psalms 59:11–17	Proverbs 13:14–15	Luke 24:25–53

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit [facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC](https://facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC)

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, [rob@methodist.cc](mailto:rob@methodist.cc))