

Newtonville United Methodist Church

Worship for June 6, 2021 ~ Confirmation Sunday

Centering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (by Safiyah Fosua)

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers and sisters and siblings? Look around you and you will see them. They are not always the people you grew up with. They are the people who have joined the journey to learn more about God and the ways of God's people.

They are the people who abandon houses and land, fame, and fortune – for the sake of the gospel.

They are the people who pray through the night for the safety of someone else's child or for the healing of someone else's loved one.

They are the ones who offer a cold cup of water to the outcast. They do so in the name of Christ.

Who are my brothers; who are my sisters; who are my siblings; where is my family?

Jesus said: Whoever does the will of God is my sibling and mother (Mark 3:35).

Welcome to worship, family!

We gather to worship the God who has made us kin!

Litany of Praise: (from Psalm 138, posted on Lectionary Sermons)

We gather to give thanks to You, O Lord,

with all our heart!

We will sing Your praises before all creation,

and rejoice in Your steadfast love!

You have created us O Lord, and made us for Yourself,

In You we become everything You have made us to be!

Musical Reflection

Morning Prayer: (by Christine Longhurst, re:Worship)

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people.

When we call out to You, You answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing beside us.

And so, we come before You gratitude and praise, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Open our eyes to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize Your voice. And then send us out from here, to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, we pray as he taught: **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, forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 & Mark 3:20-35

Message: "Home and Family"

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the Community: (from Liturgies Alive)

Let us pray to our kind and merciful God that his love for us may animate all we do and that our love may become contagious. Let us say:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

That the Church, the People of God, may never cease to proclaim by its teaching, life and liturgy that love of God and neighbor is the heart of the gospel and that people are God's gift to us, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

That people may not lose their hearts in today's economic systems of profit, efficiency, production and competition, but that they may keep giving first place to human relationships of friendship and respect, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

That we may have room in our hearts and homes for refugees and strangers, that we may learn to share our goods and ourselves with the little people loved by God - the poor and the lonely and those who suffer, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

That those who don't know how to forgive, those who have not experienced much happiness in life or whose longings have not been fulfilled may encounter a bit of God's goodness in our attention and care, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

That in our Christian communities we may uplift one another rather than tear down, accept each other with trust and affection, forgive one another from the heart and go forward together in hope and love, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

Our gentle God, help us to love you and one another with your measure, that is, without measure, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion: (by Jan L. Richardson)

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast.

Confirmation and Reception of Members

Sending Forth and Closing Song