

# Parma Greece United Church of Christ

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*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

May 10, 2015

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**The Prelude**

**Ringing Of The Bell**

**Word of Greeting and Announcements**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**Musical Meditation**

**Call to Worship**

Liturgist: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**People: Let our joy be complete!**

Liturgist: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach  
us a new song:

**People: Love one another!**

Liturgist: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family  
will join in the new song:

**People: No longer servants but friends!**

Liturgist: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**People: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

**\*The Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

#4

**\*The Prayer of Invocation-Unison**

O beloved God, all the ends of the earth marvel  
at Your deeds of power; we feel Your presence  
as growth returning to the countryside;  
we rejoice as we remember Your faithfulness and  
steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ.  
Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love.  
Fill us with generosity and courage, so that we may be  
called Your friends and go forth to befriend Your world.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

**\*An Act of Praise** "Alleluia"

**The Collect - Unison**

Jesus, our loving friend and Savior, You have promised to give  
us Your Spirit to be with us forever. Stay within our hearts, so  
that we love one another as You have loved us. For you live  
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever. Amen.

**The Reading of God's Word**

Acts 10:44-48 Page 130

1 John 5:1-6 Page 241

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 15:9-17 Page 109

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **The Homily**

*"Joy and Love"*

## **\*The Hymn**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

## **The Call to Prayer**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Silent Prayers of the People**

### **Litany for Mother's Day**

Liturgist: On this day when we remember our mothers, let us offer prayers to Jesus, the Son of Mary. Because on this earth we are all sons and daughters of Eve, let us pray for the whole world and the church universal, that we might behold each other as brothers and sisters. Lord in Your mercy.

**People: Hear our Prayer.**

Liturgist: As Rebecca gave birth to Jacob, and in so doing she gave birth to a whole nation, let us pray for our nation, and for all in authority. Lord in Your Mercy.

**People: Hear our Prayer.**

Liturgist: As Rachel's son Joseph was mistreated, beaten and wrongly jailed, we pray for all in this world who are in trouble of any kind. We pray for the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the victims of war and all who live in terror's wake. Lord in Your mercy.

**People: Hear our Prayer.**

Liturgist: As Hannah, the mother of Samuel, went to the House of the Lord to pray with earnest integrity, we pray for those in this community, and especially those celebrating their birthdays this week. Lord in Your mercy.

People: Hear our Prayer.

Liturgist: As Naomi took Ruth into her home, we pray for those who act as surrogate, spiritual mothers. We pray with gratitude for all those who give the gift of love and nurturing. Lord in Your mercy.

People: Hear our Prayer.

Liturgist: As Elizabeth gave birth in old age, and she saw her son John the Baptist carried off to persecution, we pray for all who are sick, all who are suffering in any way, and those with any need, especially...Lord in Your mercy.

People: Hear our Prayer

Liturgist: And as the Blessed Virgin Mary stood by the cross and watched her son die, we pray for the dead and the dying. Lord in Your mercy.

People: Hear our Prayer.

Liturgist: Lord Jesus, who wishes to gather Your people as a mother hen gathers together her brood, we offer to You our prayers. Accept our gratitude for all who mother, bless all who mother, and give all mothers Your comfort strength. And help all of us, brothers and sisters, to be Your family on earth, as we shall be in heaven.

Amen.

### **The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory**

forever. Amen.

**The Prayer Response** "Here Our Prayer, O God"

**The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings**

**The Offertory**

**\*The Offertory Response** Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise God above ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*The Prayer of Dedication - Unison**

**We lift up our thanks to You, Holy One, for the joy of loving and giving, for the friendship of Christ and the opportunities You give us to serve. May these gifts be used in accordance with Your love for all Your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*The Hymn** "God Bless Our Homes" #429

**\*The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

Go, empowered by the goodness and mercy of God, the compassion and love of Jesus Christ, and the energy and enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Alleluia, Amen!**

**\*The Benediction Response** "He Lives"

**\*The Postlude**

## **The Origin of Mother's Day before Hallmark**

We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace.

It all started in the 1850's when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katherine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended the wounded from both sides during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one--best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"--issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace.

Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day--and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become.