

Live Streaming Service
10 a.m. Sunday, April 5, 2020

Ephraim Moravian Church worship@ephraimmoravian.org
P.O. Box 73, Ephraim, WI 54211 920-854-2804

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe
Organist.....Colin Welford
Lay Reader.....Betty Chomeau
Guest Soloist.....Katie Dahl



In Gathering Music

Colin Welford

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Wildwood Girl"
A Tribute to Katie's Grandmother

Katie Dahl

Call to Worship: Psalm 92

Reflection

Hymn #538 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Prayers of the Church/Lord's Prayer

The Holy Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1: 20 - 28

Solo: "In the Dark"

Katie Dahl

Sermon

Benediction

Postlude "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"

Katie Dahl

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth, and friends above, pleasures pure and undefiled
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

For your church that evermore lifts its holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore its pure sacrifice of love
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

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In normal times, after Christmas and Easter, Mother's Day is far and away the highest attended Sunday Worship. It's a day of warm fuzzies. Children proudly give their homemade cards; there might be breakfast in bed, and a Mothers' Day Brunch might be on the agenda. These gestures, great and small, are evidence that we love and honor our Mothers.

Words that define motherhood would be: nurturing, teaching, protecting and encouraging. An image that comes to mind is of a 'mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings.' From our first breath our Mothers are intent that we be the best we can be. Mothers, I believe, exhibit the maternal instinct of our God. None less than Count von Zinzendorf said as much in 1741 when he recognizes the maternal side of the Holy Spirit who comforts as a mother comforts a child. (See John 14:26).

But there comes a time when our mother's care brings us to the threshold of our own futures. All along the way we have been nurtured and equipped to be agents of love, peace and health in all

we do. But nothing ever guarantees life won't be messy and dangerous. We have glaring examples of mothers watching their children go into the most dangerous of situations. What's it like for a mother to see her adult child, trained as a physician or nurse or any other caregiving profession, go to the front lines of the COVID-19 war, not knowing if she will ever see them again? Yet *These mothers let go, with hands outstretched in love.*

Mothers everywhere can be encouraged by the sacrificial lives of two Biblical mothers. Hannah's son, Samuel, meant all the world to her. Literally. The only hospice care for women in ancient times rested on having a son to care for them. Yet Hannah let go as Samuel took his lifetime position in House of the Lord. *She left him there for the Lord.* Then we observe our Lord upon the cross gazing down on His Mother, Mary. What cacophony of emotion was in her heart we'll never know, but *She left Him there for the Lord.*

Pastor Dan G. Olson