

Ephraim Moravian Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day
May 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Order of Service

“Orphan Girl” - by Gillian Welch

Welcome & Announcements

Watchword for the Week: *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.” – Psalm 98:4*

Hymn #538 (v. 1 & 3): “For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies
For the love that from our birth over and around us lies
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!

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Sung Response (#445 Red Hymnal, v. 1):

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my want and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return sweet hour of prayer. Amen.*

The Holy Scriptures: 2 Kings 11: 1-3
Galatians 6: 7-10

Reflection

“Trust and Obey” – Traditional Hymn

Sermon

“Rich” by Neal Hagberg

Benediction

“Songs My Mother Taught Me” – by Antonin Dvorák

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Reflection: “Gird up your Loins for Agape Love” Part II - by Kathleen Harris
(2 Kings 11: 1-3 & Galatians 6: 7-10)

“In the forest, while the trees are fighting each other, their roots are kissing each other.”
(African Proverb)

Could you drop everything at a moment’s notice to accomplish God’s work? In 841 B.C. Jehosheba, a Jewish princess living in Jerusalem, the capital city of the southern kingdom of Judah, did just that. Her brother, the king, had gotten involved in a coup. Athaliah, his mother, fiercely sought total control after his death. She ordered the murder of all rightful heirs, including her own grandchildren.

When Athaliah’s soldiers stormed the city, Jehosheba remembered a room where her baby nephew and his nurse stayed, apart from the older children. She went there, moving swiftly between the sounds of massacre. Jehosheba rescued them and with help from her husband, a Levite priest, hid the baby and nurse for the next six years.

Jehosheba’s story, easy to miss in the commotion of Kings and Chronicles, prompts reflection in many ways. It is about being ready. It is about doing what’s right despite personal risk. It is a hero tale that informs persistent notions of Biblical “inerrancy” and “womanhood.” Jehosheba shows us that even in dark times, God works and moves. Through us.

God tells Job, “Gird up your loins like a man” (*Job 38:3*) and in Proverbs (*31:17*), “She girds herself with strength and shows that her arms are strong.” So, take heart my friends, and persevere. Pay attention to unscheduled encounters steeped in grace.

References:

Jehosheba: The Princess Hero • Fruitfully Living Women
Woman, Gird Up Your Loins (Proverbs 31:17) • Fruitfully Living Women
'The Making Of Biblical Womanhood' Tackles Contradictions In Religious Practice : NPR
Vol. 69, No. 1, WINTER 2014 of History News on JSTOR “The Notion of Cultural Resistance”

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Pastor.....Dawn Volpe
Music Director.....Colin Welford
Guest Singers.....Katie Dahl, Amanda and Cana Mittermann
Lay Reader.....Paul Flottman



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