

**Kirkwood UCC
1603 Dougherty Ferry Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

**May 12, 2024 9:30 a.m.
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Festival of the Christian Home**

“Choose Life”

Rev. Dr. Carole Barner



Welcome

Pastor Carole

Holy Pause

Prelude

Morning Psalm Psalm 1

Ellen Smith

¹Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others. ²Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of YHWE and meditate on it day and night. ³They're like trees planted by flowing water—they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper. ⁴But not wrongdoers! They're like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the Gathering of the Just. ⁶YHWE watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rose and Doug Brockhouse

The wicked are like chaff that the wind blows away. So, together, we will build something beautiful and lasting, that no wind can blow away. We will take reverent care of one another and our planet home, our work rooted in mutuality. We will walk in the light of Christ, be the light, reflect the light.

Opening Words

Ellen Smith

Blessed are those

who do not walk in step with the wicked,

but who camp out against systems of slaughter.

Blessed are those

who do not walk in step with the wicked,

but who barricade-out foot soldiers of empire.

Blessed are those

who do not walk in step with the wicked,

but who keep one another safe

for they are in lock-step with liberation

and they are the People of God.

Opening Chorus “New Patterns of Loving” by Barbara Hamm (Unison)

Opening Prayer

Sue Laughlin

**God of Justice—we will not keep company with those who mock the sacredness of life! We will tune out their vitriol with our collective singing, for we delight in Liberating Love! Soldiers of colonialism—go home!
We don’t want you here! Repent and start anew! For we are guided by young people who refuse to heed the rules of those who have failed to protect them. We are guided by the courageous and tenderhearted,
those who protect every child’s right to flourish. May it be so. Amen.**

Children’s Time

Kim Fine

Scripture: New Testament, *Gospel*: John 17: 6 - 10; 20-21

⁶I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you’ve entrusted to me does indeed come from you. ⁸I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They know that I really came from you; they believe it was you who sent me. ⁹And it’s for them that I pray—not for the world, but for these you’ve given me—for they are really yours, ¹⁰just as all that belongs to you is mine. It is in them that I have been glorified.

²⁰I don't pray for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all may be one, as you, Abba, are in me and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.

Message "Choose Life"

Song of Prayer "Like a Tree Beside the Water"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**

Commission and Blessing

Pastor Carole

Sending Forth Song "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

With Special Thanks to:

Pastor Carole

Music - Merry Keller

Pianist - Ron Bryant

Congregational Song Leaders - Alex Becker & Jennifer Williams

Lector - Ellen Smith

Congregational Voice - Sue Laughlin

Greeter - Rose Brockhouse

Lighting of the Christ Candle - Rose and Doug Brockhouse

Children's Time - Kim Fine

Nursery Caregiver - Jennifer Johnson

Tech Booth - Amelia Lloyd

Slides - Russ Kuttenkuler

Zoom Moderator - John Riggs

Sources:

Photo by [Peter Conlan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Like a Tree Beside the Water
NCH #313

James F.D. Martin, 1992

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Inc.

Go, My Children, With My Blessing
NCH #82
Jaroslov J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

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New Patterns of Loving

Barbara Hamm

ST. DENIO

1. New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,
 2. Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;
 3. God bless all the mo - thers and fa - thers to - day;

cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.
 we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.
 help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,

All those who have loved us and helped us to grow
 But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der or race,
 to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,

are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.
 can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.
 whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

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Like a Tree beside the Waters

Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

James F. D. Martin, 1992



1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,
 2 Like a tree be-side the riv - er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,
 3 We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.



We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en - dur-ing wit - ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris - es o - ver strife.



In each pass - ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus - tain us by the wis - dom of your grace.
 O Liv - ing God, most glo - rious, strength - en us for life to - day.



Bless, we pray, this con - gre - ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.
 May the chang - ing of the sea - sons find us in your warm em - brace.
 By the hope of time - less prom - ise guide your church up - on the Way.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.


1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

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