

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

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Mother's Day
May 10, 2026

The Reverend Charles J. Arasaratnam	Bth	Minister
Anthony Alexander	B Mus.	Music Facilitator
Mary Bellinger		Song Leader

*indicates those who are able to please stand

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Come! Be present in this place. Bring your body, mind, and spirit.
- P: Listen to the words of welcome to the gracious invitation to worship.**
- L: Know that this gathering is a gift where God's presence can meet you.
- P: And to gather together in love.**
- L: To honour and show reverence to our mothers who have given us life and love.
- P: For mothers who have nurtured and cared for us.**
- L: Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
- P: Let our love for one another reflect the true and compassionate love of God shown to us through the gift of His son. We come together unafraid, for we know that perfect love casts out fear.**
- L: Let us go closer to the Lord, who will surround us with the motherhood of love.
- P: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.**

*HYMN *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*

395 vs. 1,2 & 4

*PRAYER OF APPROACH (unison)

Creator God, we thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow. On this Mother's Day, we give thanks for the women who have been examples of self-giving love, who have given time, wisdom, and care to nurture children; their own or others. We pray for those who find this a difficult day, who do not have happy memories of their own mothers, those who grieve for their mothers or for their children, and those who long to be mothers but cannot be. We remember the mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity of Sarah, the generosity of Hannah, and the courage of Mary. May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us, and guide us as we come to worship you today. Amen.

ANTHEM

Phone In Heaven by Mike Manuel

Dave Rennie – Guitar, Steve Borysenko – Drum, Mary Bellinger - vocal

Remembering Mothers:

- L: On this day of celebrating mothers, we remember and lift up our mothers to the Lord. Mothers of young children, first-time mothers, working mothers, and single mothers,
- P: We see you and honour you today.**
- L: Grieving mothers who have lost a child too soon, and those who desire to be mothers,
- P: We see you and honour you today.**
- L: All those who are missing their mothers, and mothers who are missing their children,
- P: We see you and honour you today.**
- L: Mothers who did not give birth to us, but have raised us and brought life to us in countless other ways,
- P: We see you and honour you today.**
- L: In times of joy and abundance, in times of empty nests and empty cradles, in all these, God cares for His children like a mother and carries them close to his heart.
- People of God: As a mother comforts her child, so will God comfort us.**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3: 13 - 22

SCRIPTURE

John 14: 15 - 31

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PREACHED

MESSAGE "Love and Obey"

A new creed:

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

*HYMN Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 325

WE GIVE OUR OFFERING TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY For the Gift of Creation 538
For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of miracles and mercy, you call us to get up and be part of your story of hope. As we offer these gifts, we also offer ourselves, our talents, our prayers, and our hands, ready to serve. Bless these offerings so they may lift those in need, bring comfort to the weary, and share your love with the world. Strengthen us to rise and live boldly in the power of your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN Would You Bless Our Homes and Families 556

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

L: As we have been touched by the hand of God today,
P: **Let us take this touch into all that we do this week.**
L: In our homes and families, may that touch mean togetherness and care.
P: **In our places of work, may that touch mean honesty and integrity.**
L: In our communities, may that touch mean commitment and justice.
P: **We are the people of God.**
L: And we are called to make a difference in our world. Go now in the peace of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING Go Now In Peace

POSTLUDE

If you are visiting with us for the first time this morning, welcome! It is no longer our custom to pass around the offering plate. The plate is kept at the front of the church, just inside the door, and offering envelopes are available in the pews. All donations are greatly appreciated and help to keep the heart of this sacred place beating with God's love, grace, and generosity.

Happy Birthday to Eileen Slute and Matthew Coulthard, who celebrate this Saturday ☺

Bible Study – Please see Kevin Graham for Monday evening Bible Study details.

Men's Breakfast – The men meet for breakfast every third Saturday of each month. Their next gathering is scheduled for this Saturday, **May 16 at 9:00 a.m., and the women are invited to attend.**

Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

The Prayer Shawl Committee would greatly appreciate **yarn donations.**

Christian Library – There is now a collection of Christian books in the cabinet in the Narthex. Feel free to browse, borrow, take and share them at your leisure. If you would like to add to the collection, please ensure the books are Christian.

We greatly appreciate helping bodies on Sunday mornings to:

Operate the chairlift.

Occasionally help set up coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Occasionally help with the sound and camera equipment.

If you have **social media skills** and would like to share them to promote our church, we'd love to have your talents. Instagram, TikTok, X, Meta? Maybe you can share our activities for us!

We are also looking for a **back-up person to help send out the Eblast.**

If you are interested, please see Mary Bellinger

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the kitchen for those who wish to **volunteer to bring in treats for Sunday morning coffee time** following worship. **NOTE:** If you would like to bring in a cake on special occasions, please indicate the date of your choice on the sign-up sheet and speak with someone in the kitchen.

OUTREACH

Food sort and deliveries Thursday mornings at 11 a.m. We will need all of our helpers and will gladly welcome anyone new.

If you can help with food deliveries every other Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m., please let Kevin Graham know.

We need MEAT/food donations, monetary donations, RESUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS, and DRIVERS! We will take any of the above. The best time to donate food is Thursdays at 11 a.m., or on Sunday mornings. **No egg cartons** for the time being.

***SPECIAL NOTE:** From time to time, we receive bulk items that need to be repackaged into smaller quantities. Examples: flour, rice, sugar and coffee. We are looking for anyone interested in assisting with this. This can be done at home at your leisure. If you are wishing to help in any way with the food bank, please call 289-385-1462 and speak with one of our volunteers.

Entrance to the church via the back parking lot doors **will be locked at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings.** If you arrive late, please enter the church via the front doors.

A reminder to please arrive at church “scent free”.