



Scripture                      *Acts 9: 36-43*

Sermon                                      *Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins*

Hymn                                      *“God Is My Shepherd”*                      #79

**Mother’s Day Prayer and Lord’s Prayer***(responsive)*

One: O God, we thank you that you have made women in your own image.

**All: You have given us the wonderful gift of family, an institution that provides us with support, nurture, and love.**

One: We know a loving family is truly a gift. It is not a gift to be accepted and then put aside, but is one to be opened and developed over the years.

**All: We thank you, God for our mothers, both biological and spiritual, who do much to bring us up with attention and care.**

One: Our mothers helped to teach us right from wrong, comforted us when we were afraid, encouraged us to try new things and supported us with words and care packages when we left home to start our new lives.

**All: Today, as we celebrate Mother’s Day and give thanks for our mothers, may we also affirm mothers who have careers outside the home, women who have not been able to bear children, women who have adopted, women who have outlived children and women who nurture others in a variety of ways. They all have ministries in your name.**

One: Dear God, may we grow in love and understanding, as we give you thanks for everyone who worries about us as a mother worries and cares for our needs as you do. We pray in the name of Jesus who gathers us in like a mother hen and teaches us to pray together saying...Our Father.

## Hymn

*“Faith of Our Mothers”*

Faith of our Mothers, living still  
In truth and spirit they have taught;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whene’er we hear that glorious word.

CHORUS: Faith of our Mothers, holy faith  
We will be true to thee till death

Our Mothers gave in selflessness  
with all their heart and mind and soul  
and truly blest would we be too  
if we, like them, should give for thee  
(CHORUS)

Faith of our Mothers; faith and prayer  
Shall bring all people unto thee;  
and through the truth that comes from God  
People shall then indeed be free  
(CHORUS)

## Benediction

*Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins*

## Closing Song

*“Eight Fold Amen”*  
*Alleluia (4x)*  
*Christ is Risen (4x)*

## Postlude

Parts of this morning liturgy have been adapted from: “SeasonsOnline 2019.” “When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship” by James G. Kirk. “CCLI License #21244145 (Streaming) & #21244138 (Copyright)”

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Worship Leadership

Pastor:	Rev. Wendy Schindler-Chasney
Organist:	Anita Stotz
Head Usher:	Ron Cull
Ushers:	Sally Franzen, Karen Hedrick
Called to Care:	Donna Gastier
Acolytes:	Mason Thayer, Miles Eckel

Morning Scriptures

**Acts 9:36-43**

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.<sup>a</sup> She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins,  
Conference Minister Heartland Conference, UCC**

The Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins has served since 2018 as the Heartland Conference Minister, serving the 310 UCC congregations in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia. Dave’s passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of Christ-love in the world, so that all may flourish.

Pastor Dave has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ including service on the Wider Church Ministries Board, the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and on the former UCC Executive Council. He serves as a member of the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, the Board of Directors of United Church Homes, the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and as Chair of the Governing Board of the Ohio Council of Churches. Pastor Dave is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He was honored with the conferral of the Doctor of Humane Letters by Heidelberg University. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). He is the author of the recently published book of prayers and photography titled, Yes, Love, Thank You: Meditative Prayers and Pictures to Blossom Your Heart. Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Dave was a parish pastor for over 30 years. Together with his wife, Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergyperson Dave has served two congregations, Bethany UCC, in Louisville, Kentucky, and David’s United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Dave and Beth have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah. When not on the ministry trail Dave enjoys playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing prayer poems, watching movies, and photography.