**Bearing Fruit – May 9, 2020**

**Women We Love**

Our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba, has a special Sunday to honor all women each year. Here in the United States we don’t have that, but we do have Mother’s Day.

Mother’s Day is complicated for some of us. Some women are not mothers and would have like to have been. Some women have had miscarriages or abortions. Some of us have lost our children before their time. Some of us have lost our mothers while we were still children. For some, the edge of sorrow and grief in the death of our mothers has never been blunted. Some of us have tangled relationships with our own mothers or feel unappreciated by our own children.

Even so, we are grateful not just for our mothers but for all the women in our lives who have cared for us and for the relationships in which we have mothered another. We thank God for these “mothering” relationships. We thank God for women who have cared for us along our
way - teachers, doctors, nurses, administrators, neighbors, aunts, grandparents, sisters, crossing guards, friends, to name just a few. What woman or women might you thank God for today?

From the cross Jesus took care of his mother by asking John to care for her. We may not all have had the relationships we wanted, but in some ways we have been given what we have needed - the love of a woman and the love of the household of faith, the Church.

May we continue to bear the fruit of God’s love as we thank God for our women.

On Father’s Day we will thank God for the men in our lives.

**Welcome to worship, Cindy Trowbridge**

While our music director is away visiting his mother this weekend, we are thankful for the musical gifts of another woman, Cindy Trowbridge, who is our pianist today. She teaches piano to our own Gracie Sarther as well as other students. She lives in Wheaton and attends Wellspring Church.

Here is her professional bio:

**Cynthia Trowbridge (Piano)**performs as a collaborative pianist in recitals and competitions throughout the Chicago area. A member of the piano faculty at the College of DuPage, she teaches private and class piano and serves as staff accompanist. Cindy also does extensive work as an accompanist for vocal and instrumental studios and recitals at Wheaton College. She is the principal pianist for Credo Flute summer festival, and has been the pianist for DuPage Opera Theater and music director for Wheaton College’s Opera Music Theater program. Cindy has been featured as a collaborative pianist in several WFMT live broadcasts, and recently performed with British composer and flutist Ian Clarke in concerts of his works.

Ms. Trowbridge holds a Master of Music from Indiana University, where she was a student of Menahem Pressler, and a Bachelor of Music from DePauw University. She studied at the Austro-American Institute in Vienna, Austria, and has performed in Austria and England.

Our thanks to Cindy for sharing her skills with us today, and also to Paul and Linda Wolf Jeziorski for leading us in our singing.