

May 14, 2023
Mothers' Day
The First Congregational Church of Verona

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, May 17, 7 pm - "The Chosen" Bible Study on Zoom,
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8039587568> Meeting ID: 803 958 7568
Saturday, May 20 - New Jersey Association Annual Meeting, Grace UCC,
Flemington,
Sunday, May 21, Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon, at Spring Hill UCC, by Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8039587568> Meeting ID: 803 958 7568
Sunday, May 28 - Pentecost

PRELUDE

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you

HYMN – We Praise You, O God

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us,
And with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Epenito “Rambu” Ursos, Jr.

Leader: Bathala Maykapal—Creator God, you invite us to stay with you.

All: You never leave us, you never forsake us, you abide with us, and we gather as one to worship you.

Leader: Bathala Maykapal—Creator God, you love us.

All: Extravagant is your welcome, great is your faithfulness, your grace overflows, and we gather as one to worship you.

INTROIT

INVOCATION

Rev. Epenito “Rambu” Ursos, Jr.

Leader: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us today and always. You have gathered us here to celebrate you—our Creator, our Mother, our Father—with the gift of your Holy Spirit. Let our worship be all about you as we humbly pray for the Holy Spirit to keep our hearts, minds, and souls in tune with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ANTHEM – God of the Women

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 6:3-4

EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 3:26-28

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:3, 5, 6, 16

SERMON – “For Such a Time as This”

Edward Sewell

MEDITATIVE MUSIC – There is a Line of Women

John Bell

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

**God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.**

**O use me , God, use even me just as you will, and when, and where,
Until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Epenito “Rambu” Ursos, Jr.

Leader: The Bathala Maykapal (Bat-ha-la My-ka-pal) is with you and all around you—upholding, sustaining, loving. Go, and be Christ’s justice and peace! Go, and be God’s goodness and love! Go, and be the Holy Spirit’s visible expression!
Amen.

POSTLUDE – God of Our Foremothers

Shirley Erena Murray/Jean Stevens Strathdee

<https://strathdeemusic.com/GodForemothers.html>

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Continuing our observance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day/Festival of the Christian Home were written by Rev. Epenito “Rambu” Ursos, Jr., Senior Pastor of First Filipino American United Church of Christ (FAAUCC) in San Bruno, California.

Bathala Maykapal is the name given to God by ancient Tagalogs which means transcending supreme being and the origin of the universe.

The name, Bathala, was encountered by both Muslim and Spanish missionaries arriving in the Philippines hearing it from the natives referring to the supreme being and maker of the universe. In ancient Philippine mythology Bathala is the supreme god and creator of all. Though the Spanish friars with Christian doctrine eventually got rid of the other deities (called anitos), they upheld Bathala which they retaught to the natives as equal to the Christian God.

Even today the name, Bathala remains in many Filipino expressions such as, Bathala na meaning, God will take care of it or surrendering to God’s will. In recent years, many churches have readopted the name, Bathala to be more inclusive to indigenous communities in the country who remain practicing ancient ways of worship with the Christian tradition.

Calling God Bathala / Bathala Maykapal allows the Filipino to reconnect to Philippine ancient roots and spirituality. It affirms that God indeed is the God of many names and expresses the God-self in various ways even in ancient stories.