

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

May 9, 2021

Mothers' Day/Christian Family Sunday

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: VU # 371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready my God, thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we recognize and celebrate the gift of love through Family and Friends. As we gather, Lord make us one, one in you and one with each other. Bless and strengthen our families, friends, and loved ones, to the love you taught through your son, Jesus the Christ. As we feel your presence may we too forgive, be patient as you are with us, and serve in humility and love. *

OPENING HYMN: MV # 1 "Let Us Build a House" (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

OPENING PRAYER

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you. We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends. We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths. We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling. Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation. We pray. Amen. *

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we come to you recognizing that you call us to live in relationships, sometimes it is hard but you still call us to do so. At times we struggle to be in our blood families and even in our Christian family. Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen, we may be tired, or angry, or hungry, or lonely, all things that prevent us from loving and caring for one another. May we learn your ways and be like you to build better relationships. We continually experience your love and we are thankful. Amen. *

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

TRIBUTE FOR MOTHERS'

Selection "Faith of our Mothers" (vs. 2) (*Tune for Faith of our Fathers*)

Faith of our mothers, loving faith, fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove Source of a finer, nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Prayer for Mothers

To those who are pregnant with new life, we anticipate with you and pray that God will knit together the child in your womb.

To those who gave birth this year to their first child we celebrate with you!

To those who lost a child this year, those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or accidents we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, hopes that are dashed and disappointment we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are moms, foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms thank you! We need you. We appreciate you!

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of their own mother we acknowledge your experience. We are sad with you and we pray for your healing.

To those who are caring for their mothers in the midst of medical needs, may God sustain you.

To those who whose mother died this year or in years past we grieve with you. Peace to you.

This Mother's Day, every day, we all walk together as the family of God. All are valued. All make a difference. For the mothers within my hearing, we give extra thanks today. For your love, encouragement and strength, we thank the Lord.

Drawn together by the Spirit, we join with others as one family in worship, in prayer, in praise, in company. We join in worship to God and to grow in faith together. Mothering God, we offer these prayers to you this day. Hear the prayers of our own hearts. Amen.

Amy Young - <https://www.messymiddle.com/mothers-day-litany>

Selection “Faith of our Mothers” (vs. 4) (*Tune for Faith of our Fathers*)

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church, and breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!
We will be true to thee till death. We will be true to thee till death.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE: Epistle: Romans 12:3-5

MESSAGE: “Living as One”

SONG OF REFLECTION MV # 89 “Love Is the Touch” (vs. 1 & 2)

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.
2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. We pray. Amen. *

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (soft interlude of music)

God of all times and places; we have come to pray for others. In this moment as we lift up our prayers, hear the spoken voices and the silent heart cries we pray.

Hear our petitions:

For the families around the world, especially those ravaged by covid-19, (pause)

For our church family, may we care for each other and remain faithful, (pause)

For the families in our community, we remember all those affected by the recent fire, (pause)

For families who want to live with less in order that others might have more, (pause)

For families who do not have enough to dress or to go to bed hungry, (pause)

For families who find it hard to spend any time together, (pause)

For families who struggle to speak to one another in love, (pause)

For families who are dealing with the illness of loved ones and who face the challenges of not being able to go visit them. (pause)

For families who are mourning, (pause)

For families who delight in being together, (pause)

For each family represented here today, (pause)

For all families, we pray that love will grow in them so that love will shine through them. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU # 87 "I am the Light of the World"

Refrain: I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! (Refrain)
2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! (Refrain)
3. To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere. (Refrain)
4. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! (Refrain)

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Paragraphs were adapted from writing done by Rev Jackie Harper
(Christian Family Sunday © 2018 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada.)*

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**We welcome all who join us in worship today
whether online or reading the bulletin at home.**

We are now Live-streaming our worship services, we will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. If for any reason you cannot join at that time the recording will still be available on our YouTube Channel.

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Special Mothers' Day greetings to all Mothers today including all those who are not biological mothers but have mothered many children during their lives.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week:

Mary Epple, the Fitzpatrick family, Barb Gowman, Irv Horton, Leslie Jackson, Donna Just, Harold Kirktown, Brenda Marshall, Peg Simmons, Penny & Darcy Smith, Patricia Swart, the Tobias family and Vanessa (young woman who had a brain aneurysm) Also her hubby Simon and son Silas.

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Today, May 9th, we would like to wish a very Happy 51st Anniversary to Reg and Janet Butcher.

On Tuesday, May 11th we send **Happy Birthday wishes to Marg Horton** for her 81st Birthday.

Thank you to all of you for the many hours of dedicated service to St. Paul's over the years. May God bless you all with good health for many more celebrations.



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Today the Sunday school message will be uploaded to YOUTUBE after worship. Each week the kids will get a story and the next day a bag will be delivered with their craft instructions and supplies in it. Each family will have two reusable bags - one for current week and **we ask that they hand the bag from previous week back on delivery date - to be used the following week.**



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Reaching out a helping hand

The recent apartment fire in Tillsonburg has displaced some of our own St Paul's members. Thankfully no one was hurt, however one family lost everything. As a town there has been appeals for clothing - male (xl, 36 pants size 12 shoes) and female (3xl size 11 shoes). We know they will need many things as they seek to put their lives back together. When we get details of where donations can be made, we will update you.

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