

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022
CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY
(MOTHER'S DAY)**

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Mary Jane Deacon, Dan Donaldson
Singers: Rebecca Amadei, Shayla Brown,
St Paul's & Friends Virtual Choir,
Southampton United Church singers,
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell,
Catherine Ladouceur, Bruce Wilcox



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALL TO THE GATHERED:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: VU#556 "Would You Bless our Homes and Families" sung by Jackie Millett

1. Would you bless our homes and families, source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.
2. When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.
3. From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family everyone whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.
4. Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Mary Jane Deacon, from the United Church of Canada Worship service, "Kin-to-one-another"

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "Halle Halle Hallelujah" sung by Rebecca Amadei

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 9:36-42 read by Dan Donaldson

ANTHEM: "A Prayer for my Children" written and sung by Bob Hawkstone

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Mary Jane Deacon, from the United Church of Canada Worship service, "Kin-to-one-another"



Our faith blesses us with stories of others who have sought to live in life-giving relationships. As we remember these siblings in faith, remind us of your guidance and presence with us. Let us pray.

God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; God of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; God of siblings who cared for one another, offered support and challenge, celebrated together, worked together, argued together, and grieved together. We are thankful for their witness. As they have done may we also seek to live in life-giving relationships with those we would name as siblings.

God of Eli, Hannah, and Samuel, cross-generational colleagues, mentors, and trusted leaders in faith, remind us of the opportunities we have to nurture and care, mentor and discern with one another in this faith community. May we embrace the trust that is offered and shared with respect, care, and humility.

God of Ruth and Naomi, who embraced each other despite differences of race and cultural traditions and chose to be family for one another. For all who choose to be family, may your love and hope be sustained day by day.

God of Simon and Andrew and James and John, who left the familiar to build new community with Jesus and his followers. Though faithful, they had moments of doubt, of fear, of denial. In our moments of doubt, fear, and denial, may we remember to trust and to take one step at a time.

God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael; God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac; God of the complicated, and the jealous, and the broken, remind us that this too is real and that you walk with us through these troubling times.

God of Mary and John, called to relationships that stretch beyond blood, to care for one another. You invite us too to reach out in welcome, support, and care for one another.

God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us. Amen (followed by the Lord's Prayer)

CLOSING HYMN: VU#703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"
sung by St Paul's & Friends Virtual Choir

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be;
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "May God's Sheltering Wings" sung by Shayla Brown

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.
May God's sheltering wings, his gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in his love, and hold you in his love.

POSTLUDE: For the benefit of our livestreaming and to allow a quiet time of reflection and prayer, we ask that people remain seated during the postlude.

