

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, May 14, 2023**  
**CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY (MOTHER'S DAY)**



**Minister:** Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
**Music Director:** Victoria Warwick  
**Readers:** Debbie Just, Pat File  
**Singers/Musicians:** St. Paul's Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir, Shayla Brown, St Paul's Choir  
**Tech Team:** Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

**WELCOME /CALL TO THE GATHERED/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**OPENING HYMN: VU# 409 "Morning Has Broken"**

1. Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven; like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
3. Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

**OPENING PRAYER:** Read by Debbie Just, from the United Church of Canada Worship service, "Kin-to-one-another".

**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: MV# 48 "Jump for Joy"**

And I'll jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia. Jump for joy for you.  
I will jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia. Jump for you for you.

**THEME CONVERSATION**

**HYMN: MV# 1 "Let Us Build a House"**

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:

**Refrain:**

**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:

**Refrain:**

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

**Refrain:**

1. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:

**Refrain:**

2. 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:

**Refrain:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21 - Read by Pat File



**SPECIAL MUSIC:** St. Paul's Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir (Alleluia Fanfare!)

**SERMON:**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** St. Paul's Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir (All Things Bright and Beautiful)

**SUNG RESPONSE: MV# 182 "Grateful"**

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**GROWING TOGETHER:** Good News and an Update – Pat File, Terry MacPherson

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER:** From the United Church of Canada Worship service, "Kin-to-one-another" - Read by Debbie Just

**CLOSING 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.

## **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:** Please wait for the choir to recess before leaving the sanctuary.