



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Centre for Faith, Arts & Multiculturalism

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Christian Family Sunday – Happy Mother’s Day!

Weekly Service Bulletin – May 11, 2025

221 Romaine St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3 • 705-742-2222 • stjamesunitedchurch.ca

More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca •

***Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

“We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.”

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Maeve O’Neill

Dora White, **Easter Gathering, 2021** (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

***GATHERING SONG**

In the Bulb

VU#703

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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.

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*

One: On this day of honouring mothers, I bid a special welcome to all gathered here who are mothers or as mothers: adoptive mothers, foster mothers, birth mothers, grandmothers, aunts, big sisters, leaders of children's groups.

All: We welcome all mothers!

One: In the United Church, this day is held apart as Christian Family Sunday, and so, I welcome all who come as part of a family: a family of birth or adoption; a family we may have chosen to be a part of in order to grow and be nurtured, blended families, foster families, healthy families, dysfunctional families, families strong and well and growing; and families now hurting, breaking, dis-assembling.

All: We welcome all families!

One: In this place, in this community, we are in some deep way family to each other, for we are all children of God and siblings in Jesus.

All: On this day of honouring families and mothers, welcome to this place!

Kate Crawford, Gathering - Easter 2017

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: Today we celebrate and give thanks for the mothering gifts that people share:

All: Nurturing and encouraging, nourishing and healing, enabling and teaching, sustaining and letting go.

One: We lift our voices together in gratitude and joy for the love expressed through mothers and families. Together we say the prayer that Jesus shared with his friends and disciples...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(A paraphrase - Celtic Version)*

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come In, Come In and Sit Down

VU#395

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Refrain:

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

1. You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are part of the family. **R**

2. God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family.

Refrain:

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family. **R**
4. There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family. **R**

THEME CONVERSATION *The Family Book, by Todd Parr (video)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPOTtiyxm2w>

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2020

Loving God, help us to work together, to share what we have,
So that everyone has what they need.
Help us to build a better world,
Where each of us becomes the best person we can be. Amen.

WE REFLECT

MINUTE FOR MISSION VIDEO

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

Peggy Fillier

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

ANTHEM

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 78:1-7 (Everyday Psalms by James Taylor)

One: If I say, "Once upon a time," everyone knows a story is starting.
I do not know the meanings of my stories; I merely pass them on
as they were passed to me. Only you can decide what they mean to you.

All: This is our story. This is where we came from.

One: When you hear this story, you must also tell it, so that others may know
where they came from.

All: Our story is not limited to our own lives.

One: We belong to a long line of travelers, snaking in single file through history;

**All: we bear with us the beliefs, the convictions,
the experiences bequeathed to us by those who passed this way before.**

One: From Abraham and Sarah, from Rachel and Jacob, from David and Bathsheba,
from Mary and Jesus, we learn our family story,

**All: only by knowing where we have come from
can we know where we are going.**

One: Only by knowing who we are can we know that God is with us.

***HYMN**

We Are a Rainbow

Words and Music: David Kai *Gathering - Pentecost 1, 2018*, used with permission

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We're a can-dle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bush-el any-y more,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burn-ing bright.

**We are a rain - bow, sign of co-ve-nant and peace
for the flood of tears will fin-lly cease to be,
come shine your rain - bow, splash your hues a-cross the sky,
paint the world in co-lours proud and bold and free.**

We're a coat of ma-ny co-lours, sewn from ma-ny diff-erent threads,
co-v'ring all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light," cre-a-ted e-v'ry va-ried shade,
In the rain-bow each of us can find a place. **R**

We are the hope to still be-lieve - in to-mor-row's bet-ter day,
We are peace - in a world that's torn a-part,
We are joy that will last in all the strug-gles that we face
We are love that blooms and grow in e-v'ry heart. **R**

When we face the storms of life, we will ne-ver be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be fright-ened anymore,
As the mourn-ing night of tears breaks in-to day. **R**

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

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What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Written by Reverend Jackie Harper)*

WE GO FORTH

HYMN*Give to Us Laughter***VU#624**

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1. Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.
2. Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.
3. Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.
4. Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.

BLESSING**SUNG BLESSING** *Would You Bless Our Homes and Families***VU#556**

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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 every one 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.

POSTLUDE