



Sunset United Church

May 9th 2021- Christian Family Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

Special Music: Sung by Will Ireton (he/him)
& Corinne Groff(she/her)



Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements.

Preparing for Worship:

Centering Music

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles*

Hymn: MV# 14 Where Two or Three are Gathered **

*Where two or three
are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.*

Call to Worship^:

This is the day,
It is the day that God has made.

And we have come together as God's family.

This is the day,
It is the day that God has made.

And we have come together for worship.

This is the day,
It is the day that God has made,

And we come to worship as we are:

Happy, sad, certain, questioning.

This is the day,
It is the day that God has made.

May we know ourselves blessed in it

As we gather together for worship.

Opening Prayer:

You touch our lives in so many ways, God.

In the love others share with us,

In the love that we offer others,

And in the love that shines through

This community of faith.

When we feel less than we are,

When we're lost,

When we're sure we are alone –

Remind us of the truth that permeates

All life in creation:

You are with us.
You are the one who calls us into life.
And so as we worship,
May your presence call to us,
Opening our hearts and minds
To the myriad of ways you are
There reminding us that we are your family.
In the name of our sibling, Jesus,
Amen.

Hymn: VU#395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down 

*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 a part of the family.*

*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.*

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.*

*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.*

*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.*

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.*

*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.*

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Relational God,

We give thanks for the families that surround us,

The families that we are part of.

We recognize that being family can be hard.

Sometimes we struggle with finding ways to love one another with integrity and authenticity.

Sometimes our actions, our words and our silences break down the connections between us and the people we love. We forget that You, our God, dwells in us and in the biological and chosen bonds of our relationships.

Sometimes we forget that being in family isn't for all – broken connections, failed communication, lost dreams. In these moments we say and do things we regret.


For all of these sometimes moments, Holy One, we are sorry. Help us to forgive those who have hurt us. Help others to forgive us for the hurts we may have caused. As we live our family connections, may we remember the love that you call us to share with each other. This is a love that is rooted in You. Be our guide, be our companion, be our love. Now and always. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sung Response: MV#90 Don't Be Afraid

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.*

Sharing the Story: And Tango Makes Three

Hymn: VU#230 Heaven is Singing for Joy 

1. *Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!*
for in your life and in mine is shining the glory of God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
2. *Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!*
for your life and mine unite in the love of our God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
3. *Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!*
for your life and mine will always bear witness to God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Scripture: John 15: 9-17

Special Music: *Bring Us Hope*

(Sung by Will Ireton & Corinne Groff ,
accompaniment by Shirley Hill)

Reflection

Hymn:VU#556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families ^^

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.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Loving Presence, we have been fed with the simple gifts of bread and juice. We have shared this meal around our virtual table – a table that links us to each other and to you. May this simple feast nourish us body and soul as we move out into this world, carrying Your love with us as we live into the relationships that surround us. We pray this in the name of our sibling, Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: VU#477 I Come with Joy

^^**

- 1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.*
- 2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*
- 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,*

and strangers now are friends.

4. The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5. Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



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^Prayer written by Katherine Hawker for the Evangelical United Church of Christ. Posted on Reworship.blogspot.com/search/label/Easter%20%20Year%20B

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