

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Mother - Eliza Fiander Vallis
Step-Mother - May Hillier Vallis and
Mother-In-Law - Dorothy Charlott Smith
 From Bill and Betty Smith

St. James United Church

May 13, 2012

11:00

Christian Family Sunday

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| Minister: | Rev. Bill Bartlett |
| Minister of Visitation: | Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald |
| C.E. Lay Minister: | Susan Sheppard |
| Organist/Choir Director: | Philip Roberts |
| Assistant Organist: | Allan Morgan |

Organ Prelude:

Welcome:

Introit: Sing a Brand New Song Youth & AOTS

Call To Worship: (responsive)

L: Sisters, brothers, come to this place!
P: Mothers, fathers, sing praises to God.
 L: Grandmas and grandpas, share the Story.
P: Aunts and uncles, dance the Dance.
 L: Come, for God calls you.
P: As one family, we come to worship our God!

Opening Prayer: (unison)

Refer to back of bulletin.

Hymn: Come In, Come In and Sit Down 395

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

This we pray as Jesus taught:

Loving God, within and around us, we revere you. We seek to live life as you would want us to do: with love and respect for all people and all things in the universe. May we find each day sufficient for our needs. And find forgiveness when we do wrong, just as we forgive those who do wrong to us. In times of trouble, may we centre our lives in you. For your being is love, which comes with strength and with beauty. Throughout eternity. Amen.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth 226

Commissioning: (responsive)

L: Let us go now to live as a united family of faith, welcoming all people as God's beloved children. And as we go,

P: May the grace of God, deeper than our imaginations; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit richer than all our togetherness, guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.

Choral Benediction: My Peace AOTS

Organ Postlude:



Head Usher: Dot Hapgood
Greeters: Helen LeGrow
 Shirley Bursey
Ushers: Nina Abbott
 Helen Crummell
 Joan Barbour
 Vickie Styles

Time with the Children: "The Great Family"

Hymn: To Abraham and Sarah 634

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth, to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes, to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. O God, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. O God, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a useable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.
-South Africa

Words of Assurance:

Offertory Invitation:

A teacher was explaining magnets to Grade 3's and asked, "Can you give a word for something that picks things up that starts with the letter M?" Half of the class responded "Mom." Communities pick up the pieces for those in need. And there have never been in history more charitable organizations than we have today, inviting people to love, to care, to give, and to do. So now we give of ourselves with another "M" word, money, in the name of God's dream for the world.

Offertory: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families AOTS

Offertory Hymn: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands 537

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Loving God, we bring these gifts today as a sign of our willingness to do our part to strengthen this family of faith. May these financial gifts and the gifts and skills we offer be used not just for this family, but for the

whole human family, bringing your compassion, your love, and your justice to all people. Amen.

Life and Work at St. James:

Prayer of Illumination:

Good News! Good News for my people! Those who wish to hear must open their ears to hear what is happening in the hearts of a people who have begun to awaken. Those who wish to see must open their eyes to see what is happening in the hearts of a people who have begun to walk together.

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 98 (responsive) 818

Anthem: Hallelujah Youth Choir

Gospel: Matthew 13: 54-58

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds 602

Meditation: What Does it Mean To Be Family?

Prayer for Families: (unison)

God of all times and places, we ask you to attend to this prayer and the voices, heard and silent, who pray it.

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

For families who delight in being together, (*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 warmly or to go to bed without hunger, (*pause*)

For families who read your word together, (*pause*)

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

For my family, (*pause*)

For the families in my community, (*pause*)

For the families in this congregation, (*pause*)

For the families around the world, (*pause*)