

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
 a cherished mother, Roma Paul  
 from Nancy and Anthony  
 "Roma touched everyone with her love & kindness"

## St. James United Church

May 14, 2017/Easter 5/Christian Family Sunday/Mother's Day

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
 Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
 Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray  
 Organist: Bob Rose  
 Choir: Senior Choir  
 Choir Director: Emma Clark  
 Soloist: Matthew Cooper

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

### Musical Prelude

### Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

### Welcome & Life & Work of St. James

### Entry into the Celebration

### Lighting of the Community Candle



Introit: *Mother and God* 280

### Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: This is the day to honour mothers.

**All: Celebrate with us, loving God.**

One: This is the day to give thanks for our parents and grandparents.

**All: Celebrate with us, caring God.**

One: This is the day to remember our whole family.

**All: Celebrate with us, God of fellowship.**

One: This is the day to rejoice in the life of our church.

**All: Celebrate with us, faithful God.**

One: This is the day to recall the whole human family.

**All: Celebrate a sharing world, universal God.**

**Opening Prayer:** (together) We come as one family: seeking Your presence, celebrating our faith, supporting one another, walking together through change. Be with us all today, especially those who mourn the passing of someone or something that has been so important. Make us all aware of Your never-ending love and care. Amen.

### Sharing the Peace:

One: The peace and presence of God is here....to stay. **All: Thanks be to God.**  
*(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.)*

Hymn: *Come In, Come In and Sit Down* 395

### Time with Children

Hymn: *I Am a Child of God* MV157

### Offering Invitation

### Offertory

Offering Hymn: *Worship the Lord* 401

*Now in response to the life You are giving, help us, Creator, to offer our living, seeking a just and a healing society, worship and work must be one! Worship the Lord (worship the Lord), praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son, raising our hands (raising our hands) in devotion to God who is one!*

**Prayer of Dedication:** (together) God, we thank You for the many gifts You have poured into our lives; for those who love us and nurture us; for those who teach us to be loving people. Bless those people and bless these gifts that we may work for You, bringing healing and hope to our fractured world. Amen.

### Silence

### Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Ruth 1: 6-17

Anthem: *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck Choir

Gospel: John 15: 9-14

### Meditation Litany in Praise of Valiant Women:

One: So let us now praise valiant women recalling to life representatives of all those unsung heroines, whose lives are living testimony that God is God in all.

**All: We praise valiant women whose lives give hope to us all.**

Litany response: **We praise valiant women**

Communion Hymn: *We Gather Here* 469

**Celebrating Community: Sacrament of Holy Communion**



**Welcome to the Table**

**Thanksgiving:**

One: We give thanks for the unfolding of matter, mind, intelligence, and life that has brought us to this moment in time.

**All: We celebrate our common origin with everything that exists.**

One: We celebrate the mystery we experience and address as 'God': ground and sustainer of everything that exists, in whom we live and move and have our being. And we acknowledge this mystery embodied in every human person, aware that each one of us gives God unique and personal expression.

**All: God is everywhere present: in grace-filled moments of sharing, in carefully created communities of loving solidarity.**

One: We are one with everything, living and nonliving, on this planet; connected; interrelated; interdependent. And we pray together. Our Father...

**The Story:**

One: We remember the stories from our tradition... enable us to dare and to dream and to risk .

**All: Together may we re-imagine the world.**

One: Together may we work to make all things new.

**All: Together may we celebrate the possibilities and hope we each have and are called to share .**

One: For everyone born, a place at the table...

**Bread and Wine:**

*(Bread is broken)*

One: We break the bread for the broken earth, ravaged and plundered for greed.

**All: May there be healing of our beautiful blue and green planet.**

One: We break this bread for our broken humanity, for the powerful and the powerless trapped by exploitation and oppression.

**All: May there be the healing of humanity.**

One: We break this bread for those who follow other paths: for those who follow the noble path of the Buddha, the yogic path of the Hindus; the way of the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs; and for the descendants of Abraham, the children of Hagar and Sarah.

**All: May there be healing where there is pain and woundedness.**

One: We break this bread for the unhealed hurts and wounds that lie within us all.

**All: May we be healed.**

*(Wine is poured)*

One: This is the cup of peace and of new life for all; a sign of love for the community of hope.

**All: A reminder of the call to live fully, to love wastefully, and to be all that we can be.**

**Communion**

**After Communion:** (together) Divine Presence in all of life, we give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place. We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. May we continue to be truly thankful in all we do and in all we become. Amen.

**Hymn:** *God of the Women* (Tune of 'Be Thou My Vision' 642)

*God of the women who answered Your call,  
Trusting Your promises, giving their all,  
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —  
Give us their courage to live in Your truth.*

*God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,  
Giving their resources, learning to pray,  
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —  
May we give freely as they did before.*

*God of the women long put to the test,  
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?"  
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.*

*God of the women who ran from the tomb,  
Prayed with the others in that upper room,  
Then felt Your Spirit on Pentecost Day —  
May we so gladly proclaim You today.*

*O God of Phoebe and ministers all,  
May we be joyful in answering Your call.  
Give us the strength of Your Spirit so near  
That we may share in Your ministry here.*

**Parting Words**

**Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude**



**Ushering this week is provided by:**

Usher in Charge: Barbara Butt  
Greeters: Nina Abbott, Menetha Dyke  
Ushers: Sylvia Cole, Barbara Tulk.,  
Betty Winsor, Joan Barbour, Gloria Le Feuvre



**When you thought I wasn't looking**

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,  
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat,  
and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me,  
and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer,  
and I believed there is a God I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight,  
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes,  
and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared  
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked...  
and wanted to say thanks for all the things  
I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.

Anonymous

