

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 13, 2018

8:15a 10:30a

Festival of the Christian Home
Mother's Day

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!

denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in **bold print*

There are many different families in which we participate throughout our lives. There is, of course, our biological family, the one into which we were born and which we share much tradition and much history. There is our church family, the family of God, through which we acknowledge that we are all related in Christ. There is the family of choice, the folks who are like family and with whom we enjoy sharing our time and who hold a special place in our hearts. Each of these families helps us to feel fulfilled and complete. When they are in harmony with each other and when we are living in harmony with each of them, there is a special awareness of how blessed our lives are.

PRELUDE - "O God, Whose Steadfast Love" – *R. Vaughan Williams*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us worship our God,
whose love is like that of a mother for her child,
a love that always seeks the highest good,
a love that never lets go,
a love that reaches even into eternity.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**As we gather, we raise our prayer of thanks
for those we call family —
the family that gathers in our homes,
the family that is scattered elsewhere,
the family of close friends,
the family of faith, here and around the world.**

***GATHERING HYM # 426 – “O God, Whose Steadfast Love”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

The God revealed to us in the pages of Scripture
is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another.

So we gather to seek removal of all barriers to that love.

Come to confess all that separates
you from others and from your own best.

**For sins we have committed as members of our families,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For words that were spoken in anger and haste,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For actions that were selfish and immature,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For attitudes that were unsupportive and unforgiving,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For judgments that were critical and unfeeling,
forgive us, we pray.**

And now let us confess in silence the fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

WE PRAY FOR GOD’S MERCY

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God was in Christ, not only reconciling us to himself,
but also reconciling us to one another.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 23 – “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us express affirm our faith in God's presence with us:

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

"Arise, Shine"

By Robert Lau

Senior Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

HYMN

8:15a # 253 – "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!"

10:30a # 260 – "Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise" – *(Llanfair)*

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

LITANY FOR THE FAMILY

God of all Living and Loving:

How pleasant it is when women, men,
and children live together in unity!

How noble is your creation and the world that you have made!

How blessed we are to receive the gifts of life and love!

We are thankful for families,

**where scattered piles of stuff testify that we live fully in the moment;
where the noise of laughter and the silence of sadness are freely shared;**

We are thankful for families,

**where we find sanctuary from danger and judgment;
where words of love and openness are the rule of life.**

We are thankful for families,

**where our differences are the spices of life;
where our unity is something that we can always take for granted.**

We grieve for families,

**where violence and rejection are living realities;
where hearts are broken, and dreams are shattered.**

We grieve for families,

**where walls of protection become fortresses of isolation,
where language is a weapon of destruction and hate.**

Help us to understand,

those families whose identities are different from ours;

Help us to understand,

the ways of loving, parenting, partnering and working together for peace.

Help us to dare,

**to stand strongly against hate and divisiveness;
to encounter our differences with love and respect.**

This we believe:

**that love is stronger than hate;
that hope is stronger than despair,
and that good is stronger than evil.**

In the name of the One who is Loving and Living. Amen

PRAYER RESPONSE # 775 – “And God Will Raise You Up”

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

It is now our privilege to invest our tithes and offerings
in the worldwide effort to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

*To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.
As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.*

Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!

OFFERTORY - "Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise" - R. Powell

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, you generously pour out
the gifts of your Spirit upon your people.
Give us the grace to be as charitable
as you have been toward us.**

*CLOSING HYMN # 542 – "Born of God, Eternal Savior"

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Receive from God's Holy Spirit
a sturdy patience and an enduring hope,
rooted in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

* POSTLUDE – "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" – M. Burkhardt