# First United Church

May 12, 2024 10:30 a.m.

## Seventh Sunday of Easter / Christian Family Sunday



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

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Bulletin Art: "Christian Family Sunday," image from The United Church of Canada

- **Is a request to stand in body or in spirit**

**Prelude** Rhosymedre R. Vaughan Williams
(VU 555 - Our Parent, by Whose Name)

**Listening as We Gather**

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

ONE: We are bound on this land by relationships.
**ALL: We are bound to God's creation and to one another.**
ONE: Those relationships have benefitted this community.
**ALL: Those relationships have blessed us and cost others.**
ONE: We speak acknowledgement of our presence.
**ALL: Our presence is at the expense of others.**
ONE: We must learn to share, as God has shared with us. In this land of the Haldimand Tract, and upon the traditional territory of Chonnonton, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people, we are bound to Indigenous neighbours and their fate.
**ALL: Where we have failed in this relationship, forgive us and give us the wisdom to repair.**
ONE: May we learn to live into our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and cast a better future for all.
*Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region, Alta.*

ONE: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background, or abilities.

**Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship**

- **Introit** Come Now, O God of Peace/Ososo VU 34

- **Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: Open your hearts to the light of God's presence.
**All: We will work and worship in the light of God.**
One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
**All: Thanks be to God.**
*Cheryl Stenson*

- **Call to Worship**

ONE: Creator, parent of the human family,
**ALL: we gather to worship you.**
ONE: In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,
**ALL: we gather to worship you.**
ONE: Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,
**ALL: we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/our story, in thoughts and reflections.**
ONE: Let us worship God. Jackie Harper, *Kin to One Another*

**Prayer of Approach**

- **Hymn** Come In, Come In and Sit Down VU 395

**Prayer of Confession**

*(silent prayers)*

**Words of Assurance**
One: Through all the joys and all the struggles of living in relationship, one truth is offered to each and every one of us:
**ALL: God has loved us, is loving us and will always love us. Thanks be to God for this unending gift of love.**

# *Listening For God's Word*

**Family Choir** The Sharing Song Raffi
God's Big Family Ruth Elaine Schram

**The Story for the Young at Heart** Suzanne Armstrong & Martin Eisenloeffel

**Our Prayer for God's Blessing on Prayer Shawls**
**We Give Our Thanks** MV 187
1. We give our thanks to God - 4x
2. We ask your blessing, God - 4x

**Scripture Readings**

**1 John 5: 1-6** (Tagalog with English subtitles) (Reader: Miriam Beldock)
ONE: This is the witness of the Church.
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**John 15: 9-17**
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music – Gallery Choir** Go Into the House of the Lord Lloyd Larson

**Reflection** Rev. Hoeun Lee

- **Hymn** Would You Bless Our Homes and Families VU 556

# *Responding to God's Word*

## Time of Offering

**Offertory** For the Beauty of the Earth arr. M. Archer

- **Dedication of Offering** Ay, Ay, Salidumay MV 184

- **Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. Amen.** Jackie Harper, *Kin to One Another*

**Call to Prayer** Here, O God, Your Servants Gather, Vs. 1 VU 362

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer** *[New Zealand Prayer Book]*
**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**
**With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

- **Sending Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth (Tune: DIX) VU 226

- **Sending Forth and Benediction**

ONE: Like the woman who ran to share the Good News of the empty tomb,
**ALL: Let us go forth with joy.**
ONE: Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,
**ALL: Let us go forth with opened eyes.**
ONE: Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,
**ALL: Let us go forth with peace.**
ONE: Like Thomas, filled with doubt,
**ALL: Let us go forth with faith.**
ONE: Like fishers pulling heavy nets,
**ALL: Let us go forth with abundant life .** *Celebrate God's Presence*

- **Benediction Response** May the Love of the Lord MV 218

**Recession of the Light and Word**
**Postlude** Toccata in b minor Eugène Gigout