

# Outline of Worship Family Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Worship leaders: Simba at SUC Lay at NUC Pianist: Julie at NUC

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Simba

## WE GATHER *(lighting candles)*

NUC-Holly

We gather as a family, born of faith, bound by love, sustained and inspired by love. We seek to offer and receive support to and from each other. We belong to this family in all our diversity. Let us celebrate who we are and worship our Creator as we are.

We light these candles as symbols of our faith and how we express it, as well as how we relate to one another.

## SONG: MV 7 Gather Us In x2 *remain seated*

*Words and music copyright © 2005 David Hann*

Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, gather us in,  
ground us, ground us in you.

## LIFE AND WORK of our churches and communities

Holly/Simba

## SONG: VU 395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down vs 1-4

*Words and Music copyright © 1984 James K. Manley Arrangement copyright © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.*

*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.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

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

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you. We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends. We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths. We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling. Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

**THEME TIME:** The Family Book by Tedd Parr

**NUC-Roxanne**

**SONG:** MV 178 **Who Is My Mother?** vs 1-4

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992 copyright © Hope Publishing Company Music copyright © 2005 Ron Klusmeier*

Who is my mother, who is my brother?  
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:  
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel  
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us - colour or status  
can't segregate us, round Jesus Christ:  
family failings, human derailings—  
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labeled,  
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:  
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,  
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission  
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:  
here is my mother, here is my brother,  
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

## A MOMENT TO PONDER:

On this Family Sunday, what do you consider an ideal family? Is there a single model of a family? Does an ideal really exist? Why do you say so? Think about your family and say a quiet prayer about your family.

God loves & accepts all families, regardless of how they are packaged. Amen.

## SPIRITUAL READINGS:

**Scripture: John 17:6-19**

**SUC-Marilynne**

17:6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 17:8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 17:9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 17:10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 17:11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

17:12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 17:13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

17:14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17:15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 17:16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not

belong to the world. 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 17:18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

**Contemporary: Based on Genesis 37:28** by Steve Garnner Holmes [Unfolding Light](#)

**NUC-Holly**

*When some Midianite traders passed by, Joseph's brothers drew him up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver—Genesis 37.28*

Frost is mostly right that home is where,  
when you have to go there, they have to take  
you.  
Mostly. But what would Hagar say? Or  
Joseph?  
Biblical families aren't havens of belonging,  
places of safety or unconditional acceptance.  
Loving or not, family is where your problems  
start. Where conflict is inevitable.  
Where we treat loved ones as we would never  
treat strangers.  
Sooner or later we have to come home and  
reckon with family.  
It's the final frontier: the deepest wounds, the  
greatest fears,  
the heaviest failures, the sneakiest neuroses  
we have to wrestle with. Jacob and his angel.

Face to face or elsewhere, we have to go back  
into that house  
and work things out. Engage in loving conflict.  
Accept without yielding. Take what's true and  
flush the rest.  
Forgive them, and ourselves. Honor the child of  
us,  
the one who protected and sustained us—  
and thank that child, and say goodbye. Let  
them stay there  
while we move on.  
The Bible is right: family is where you work  
your stuff out.  
I pray for your courage to go there.  
I pray that, alive or dead, they will help you.  
But remember nothing depends on them. It's  
your work.  
Do it, and even to those who sold you into  
slavery  
you will be ready to act with grace and honor  
and generosity.

**SONG: MV147 God, Help Us to Treasure vs 1-3**

Words copyright © 2002 John Wesley Oldham. Music copyright © 1998 Lori L. ErhardtArrangement: Bruce Harding copyright © 2006 The United Church of Canada.

God help us to treasure these moments of  
myst'ry;  
To hallow the Sacred in all that we  
do.  
Throughout ev'ry season may we be your  
agents  
Of love, joy, and blessing as hearts are  
renewed.  
God, help us to honour your presence among  
us

In newborn, in elder, in fam'ly in need.  
By sharing with others we soon will discover  
Your kindness and loving in generous deeds.  
  
God, help us to value each moment of wonder  
When peace shall o'er shadow our sorrow and  
pain.  
In times shared at Table with all who are  
kindred,  
may we find the healing to sing Love's refrain.

## REFLECTION

Jesus brings these words in his farewell discourse, addressing two main issues that have attracted my attention.

The first one is that of community. **“That they may be one, as you and I are one.”** Jesus equates human relationship to that of the Trinity. The Godhead is pointed as the model. A few reminders; first, they are all eternal; no beginning, no end. Jesus asserts that they are equal in power/authority and they are of the same substance. That means none of them is superior than the other. Trinity; as we know or at least it has been understood to be, does not compete, oppress one another, exploit one another, or deny each other space.

Thus, **we are called into a relationship** of mutual respect, not only with our peers, but even with contra-minded individuals, (not adversaries). We are called to be one, in our diversity. That may mean sticking together even if some of the things are not at their best. A family member doesn't easily walk out for the mere reason that things aren't working as they are desired. That asks for patience, perseverance, long suffering and resilience. Moses, Aaron & Miriam demonstrated to us how a family can effectively serve you.

**The Second aspect is that of being in the world, remaining in the world and being sent into the world.** The community of Jesus' followers are not exclusively “a holy club, that has nothing to do with their community.’ They are not called to live a pious life that has nothing to do with community. In fact; they are to remain in the world, a people called for and are sent into the world. Therefore, it is not the intention of Jesus to have a church that focuses on their holiness only. There is a tendency for many Christians to stay separated from the society because they are holy. From this passage or pericopi, Jesus is very intentional. The followers of Jesus, by all intent & purposes, should exist and live for the world. The question is; “Who is the world?” I think that includes everybody and everyone.

### **The Quality of Our Relationship with God Determines Our Relationship with One Another**

In this relationship with our creator, we should treat our neighbor as ourselves. Mark 12:30-31. Loving our neighbor is key to our life as a family of faith. Love is so central in our lives as families, more than any other value or principle. It builds more homes, heals wounded and broken hearts, reaches out unconditionally, accepts without judging, calls forth the divine in the other a prophetic way, and so forth. In this passage, Jesus used himself as the model. We are not called to invent other models, as followers of Jesus, although we can find other models in life. In my opinion, love has the traction and it facilitates how all other virtues might be seen.

On this Family day, remember Simon & Andrew – two greatest brothers in the apostolic succession – Peter in the western church & Andrew in the Eastern Church, Naomi & Ruth – a multi-racial family, Mary & Martha crying for their brother/sibling Lazarus. Sometimes family comes with tension as it did with Jacob & Esau, yet they represent family. How does our faith shape our relations? How can we build a better community? Jesus offers some of the approaches that might help us. What do you think we need to do?

What role are you prepared to take in building your family, our church family and the whole creation, as a family? Sometimes we need peace makers, listeners, encouragers like Barnabas, leaders like Moses, givers like Dorcas, or whatever and whoever you may want to refer. Pick and choose how you want to contribute in building a better family at all levels of our society.

## **SONG: VU 602 Blest Be the Tie that Binds vs 1-4**

*Words: John Fawcett 1782. Music: Attributed to Johann G. Nageli, arranged by Lowell Mason. Words & Music: Public Domain.*

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and  
mind  
is like to that above.

We share each other's woes,  
each other's burden's bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

Before our Maker's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.

## **OFFERING: INVITATION**

As we celebrate the gift of family, in whatever form it comes, remember that we are called to be one. To be a community of mutual love and mutual respect. Let us partner with God in building families, healing families, and affirming families, basing our ministry on love. Let us offer our talents, time, & resources with love.

## **SONG: VU 537 Your Work O God Needs Many Hands**

*Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927. Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain.*

Your Work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work,  
our offering now we make;  
be pleased to use it as your own,  
we ask for Jesus' sake.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God who gave us life and community; we thank you for everything we have and will have. we pray that you accept our offertory; our hearts, talents, & our treasures, for the greater good of our neighbor and the rest of creation. Bless us as we offer. Through Jesus Christ, our neighbor. Amen.

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Mission & Service stories - Video**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God who created humanity and settle them as a community. You live as a community in the form that we have named Trinity. The whole creation is a family, though diverse and different. We thank you for all forms of family that exist among us. We thank you for all who have joined this family. Teach us to live by love, to serve with love as we seek to grow love. As we gather, some of us are wounded because of our past experiences. May they find healing in this family, where love should be central and your presence heals all those who are hurting. May we find peace, healing and wholeness in this place.

We pray that you enable us to share your love to all, to serve with kindness, to lead with gentleness, and listen with humility. In our family of faith, we pray for those who are suffering physical, psychological and emotional pain. May they find what they seek from you. Send us to help heal the heartbroken, the segregated and the marginalized. May your presence filter through our human presence, our prayers, our support and all forms of our ministries.

For peace and justice, we pray. For love to abound in our families, we pray. For your love to keep transforming us, we pray. Through Jesus' name, we pray. We all sing the prayer Jesus taught to the disciples

### **“The Prayer Jesus taught” sung VU 959/974**

Music VUV 959: David Haus © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music VU 974: Jim Strathdee© 1985 Desert Flower Music. Words: Public Domain

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
forgive us our sins

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever.  
Amen! Amen!  
Hallelujah, amen!

### **SONG: VU556 Would You Bless Our Home and Families vs 1-4**

*Words copyright © 1977 Walter Farquharson Music copyright © 1977 Ron Klusmeier*

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **BLESSING**

May grace of Jesus find you and your family. May God's love surround you and your family. May the communion of the Holy Spirit keep you in friendly communion. Now and forever. Amen