

Outline of Worship

Christian Family Sunday

May 10th, 2026

Worship leaders: Simba at NUC Linda at SUC

Pianist: Scott Jodoin at SUC

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *projected*

WELCOME

Simba

Welcome to our Family Day worship service. Your family is unique, valuable and special. Here we celebrate your families, wishing you well and God's blessings. Hold your families in prayer as we open our hearts to experience the Divine in this sacred moment.

CREATE SACRED SPACE *with candle lighting*

SUC-Linda

Today we gather to celebrate the blessing of familiness. Family is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. It is within the family that love is first experienced, faith is nurtured, and values are passed from one generation to another. At every stage of life, whether in moments of joy, trials, growth, or uncertainty, family remains the place where we find support, encouragement, and belonging. Because families are central to our lives, they also need God's guidance, protection, and grace.

In this space and at this time, let us yield to God's inspiring presence, seeking encounters that may transform us.

We light these candles to symbolize the divine presence of Christ in all we do, and affirm the worth and dignity of one another as siblings in Christ

SONG: MV14 Where Two or Three are Gathered x2

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Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

LIFE & WORK

Linda/Simba

SONG: VU395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down vs 1,2,4

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.*

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.

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.*

*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

Gracious God, in your divinity, we quiet our spirits. We yield to your presence and bow in honor of your name. On this Family Day, we come from different families, which reflect diversity in composition, structures, experiences, dreams, and hopes. May our homes be filled with compassion, laughter, and understanding. May Your love guide every relationship within our family and strengthen the bonds we share. With all our knowledge, research and intelligence, we acknowledge that God is the true foundation of our households. Calm our worries, grant us wisdom, strengthen us and help us to love and forgive one another. Bless us in this moment of sacred gathering. In Jesus' name in Jesus'. amen.

THEME TIME: "Jesus' Siblings"

SUC-Gay

Today is Family Sunday. Where's your family? Who is part of your family? Some of them are here today, but others may not be.

There are lots of different families. Can you think of some?

- Two parents, Mom and Dad or two Moms or two Dads
- One parent and children
- Two adults and no children
- Grandparents with grandchildren
- One adult

Do you think Jesus had a family? We know about his mother and father. Who are they?

Did he have any siblings? Brothers or sisters? (Mark 6:3)

So, we know he had brothers. What about sisters? What do you think? How many? Do they have names? Hmmm . . .

What do you think is the most important part of any family?

Jesus said it was love. Yes, we love our family through the happy times and those not so happy times. We might even be upset at them sometimes . . . We know deep down they love us and we love them. That's what Jesus is all about, isn't he? He tells us to love one another. He wants us to think about his family, our church family, as all of us who are loving and care for each other.

How can we help other people know that they are loved?

SONG: MV 92 Like a Rock x2

Words: Keri Wehlander Music: Linnea Good Words and music copyright © 1999 Borealis Music

Like a rock, like a rock,

God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky

God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon

God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean,

our home is in God evermore.

A MOMENT TO PONDER:

Different institutions that exist are bound by various values. Jesus calls us to love one another. Is love an emotion, a choice, a practice or a combination of some or all of the above. Have we loved one another enough to make us one? Take a moment to ponder.

SPIRITUAL READINGS:

Scripture: John 14: 15- 21

NUC-Roz

If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper, to be with you always – the spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains in you. I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who obey the commandment and the ones who love me, and those who love will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.

Contemporary Reading: "Resting in Love" by Bruce Sanguin

SUC-Ken B

O Holy One, by your grace we enter now the sacred realm, a place of deep connection with you, with each other, with the planet, and with all creation. By your grace, the walls that isolate fall; fear dissolves into trust; arrogance is gentled by compassion; our need to prove ourselves is tempered by self-acceptance. Now, we rest in a love that helps us see our lives as part of a great unity, a coherence of grace. We join with all creation in proclaiming your glory, and the glory of being alive. Amen.

REFLECTION

On this Family Sunday, also Mother's Day, for some, I am coming to you with the message from the gospel of John, who puts love at the center in Jesus' ministry. He calls them to love, especially given the prevailing circumstances. As they prepared for Passover and the imminent departure of Jesus, they needed some wisdom on how to remain intact and successful beyond the daily leadership of Jesus. Jesus offers them wisdom. The dominant phrases were, "Love one another." "If you love me." The greater context of the Gospel of John and the three epistles of John demands that "We love our neighbor before we claim our love for God, because God is love." This is why it is called "**The beloved community.**" The book of John speaks about love more than anyone, and the Johannine community demands love more than anything else.

Love That Builds the Institution

There are so many approaches and principles of creating posterity for institutions, yet Jesus calls them **to love one another**. He did not ask for strategy, long term planning, no sophisticated blue print, or any philosophical teaching or biblical interpretation. Jesus charges them; to "**love one another.**" John, together with the epistles of John are closely knit, they all emphasize love as a way & strategy for survival in the face of adverse outside pressure. Staying united and in love was the stance. Love was central to the Johannine community, not the Johannine tradition. A community built upon love, unity and caring for one another. **Their survival depends upon the tenacity of their own relationship. They faced crashing opposition yet their love and unity led them to be an evolving & steady community. First, the Jewish believers, followed by anti-temple Jews, then**

Samaritans and later, gentile believers. This community was **radically inclusive, welcoming and caring.** The magnitude of diversity was so great that it was so difficult to keep them together. It's not their similarities that necessitated their love & unity. **Rather, it was their radical differences that required such an approach. The only thing that could keep them together was love. The only bond that could overcome ethnic differences, cultural food diversity or segregation, old vendetta/grudges between Jews & Samaritans, to mention a few, was love.**

What is it in love that it has been deemed a new commandment? Not a teaching or just an ordinary obligation or responsibility. Is love an emotion, choice, a calling, or a decision? Where does loyalty come in here?

Love is the Foundation for Other Institutions

The oldest institution humanity has managed is family and it is built upon love. **Family is an essential part of human existence. It is within the family that love is first experienced, faith is nurtured, and values are passed from one generation to another.** At every stage of life, whether in moments of joy, trials, growth, or uncertainty, **family remains the place where we find support, encouragement, and belonging.** But the fuel that leads to unity, bonding, compassion or any other, is love.

The connection between God and humanity, and even of the universe as it were, is based upon God's love. If I may ask; **What is it that is in love that can sustain a relationship for so long?** Love endures differences, seasons, successes and failures. It overcomes passion and emotion, evolving from a feeling to a decision. Being loyal in a love relationship is a choice and decision.

Jesus gave this as a commandment, not just a teaching, not even a philosophy.

Commandments are meant to be the basis of being and a guide for daily living; **shaping both, faith and behavior. They define both, identity and destiny.** A way of being. It defines who they are, as a people. The Chinese Philosopher, Confucius once said; "I hear and forget, I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Jesus charges the disciples to love one another. May we go & do, to love one another, so we could understand.

SONG: MV178 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.

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

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.

OFFERING: INVITATION

As a people called to follow Jesus, let us offer our gifts to support this ministry of ours.

SONG: MV27 Creator God vs 3

Words and music copyright © 2004 by Judith Snowdon

When with our hearts, our hands, our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.

PRAYER

We offer these gifts with gratitude & thanksgiving. Accept these gifts and bless the hearts that have offered. Through Jesus, the Holy One. Amen.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Mission & Service stories

SUC-Ken B

Held in Hope

On Mother's Day, we give thanks for mothers and for all those who carry a mother's love. Those who nurture, protect, and keep going through great responsibility, often while carrying more than they can easily name. In January 2025, in the Eastern Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine, a retreat in Tukhlya offered mothers and children a chance to step away from the pressures of daily survival and receive care. Through ACT Alliance, ACT member Hungarian Interchurch Aid welcomed families who had been displaced by war or were living near the frontlines into a space of rest and support. Many of the mothers arrived exhausted, carrying grief, uncertainty, and the constant demands of caring for their children in difficult circumstances. At the retreat, they were offered psychological support, time in nature, and creative activities, while their children were cared for through play and art. For many, it was the first time they had been able to focus on their own wellbeing. One mother shared that she had spent so long focused on her children's needs that she had forgotten her own. In this space, she was able to rest, reflect, and begin to regain strength for the journey ahead. Through Mission and Service, initiatives like this become possible. Our gifts help create spaces where caregivers can receive care, where resilience can be renewed, and where hope can be strengthened even during ongoing hardship. On this Mother's Day, we remember the strength of mothers everywhere, and the importance of supporting that strength in return. Our gifts to Mission and Service help make this care possible, make your gift today.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of many blessings, you showed up through Jesus in a family. You lived in a family and served in, with and among the family. On this Family Day, we come as a spiritual family. We ask that you hear our prayers. Grant that we may remain united, bound by love and seeking to bring others together.

We pray for our families, that we may thrive in this era, to overcome hatred with love. to overcome divisions and conflicts with grace & unity. **That the power of love may overcome the love for power.**

We remember those families who are suffering, those disintegrated, those isolated, and those in pain. May your presence transform their situations, healing the sick, comforting the grieving, and giving hope to the despairing. Even as we gather, we pray for our ministry in our communities, for our

province, and the country. We pray for a peaceful world, where love reigns, build families, communities and be the essential component of who we are and what we can become. Now, in our melodious voices, may we sing the Prayer taught by Jesus:

The Lord's Prayer VU 959 with Amen's VU 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 Homes and Families vs 1,3

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

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

BLESSING

May the grace of our Teacher, Jesus Christ fill your homes and sustain your families. May the foundations of your families grow strong. May your homes be safe and secure. May God strengthen your family bonds and rebuild the bridges. May God guide your visions and dreams and establish your families. May your hopes be realized. May God's love give you peace and communion always. Amen.