

Sunday, May 9, 2021



Easter Sunday was April 4 and we celebrated the Risen Christ! The Season of Easter continues and lasts until May 23 which is Pentecost Sunday 16. The cross remains in the sanctuary with the white cloth on it until then. Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING: Our parent, by whose name all parenthood is known (*Tune - Rhosymedre*) arr. *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: VU187 The Spring has come vs. 1 & 2

CALL TO WORSHIP:
(Written by Kate Crawford. Gathering Lent/Easter 2017)

Today we celebrate the mothering gifts
That women and men have to share:
**nurturing and encouraging,
nourishing and healing,
enabling and teaching,
sustaining and letting go.**
Let us lift our voices together in worship,
remembering the mothering Christ
who bore us to eternal life.

OPENING PRAYER
(Adapted from David Sparks, Gathering Lent/Easter 2017)

Who is our family?

Our family is a group of people who understand us and accept us as we are.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Who is our family?

Our family is there for us when life is testing us and when the going is rough;

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Who is our family?

Our family is aware of our resistance to change, and is not afraid to challenge us.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Who is our family?

They are there for us in times past, and are strong support for today, and can be relied on in the coming days.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Who is our family?

Oftentimes it is our family of birth or adoption, sometimes it is a varied group of people who have come into our lives. Whoever it is,

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle, however they came to us. Amen.

HYMN: VU187 The Spring Has Come vs. 3 & 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: VU556 Would you bless our homes and families vs. 1 & 2

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15: 9-17 read by Judy Oatway

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: "Once in a dream" *Text - Christina Rossetti; Music - Michael Hurd*

SERMON: Mothers' Day Litany

(Gifts in Open Hands, Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonsion Eddy, pgs.110-11)

We walk in the company of women who have gone before, mothers of the faith both named and unnamed, testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of Wisdom and Healing. They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, and saints who are near to us in our memory and our dreaming.

We walk in the company of Deborah,
who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.



OUR LAND - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

We walk in the company of Ester,
 who used her position as queen to ensure the welfare
 of her people.
**We walk in the company of you whose names have
 lost and silenced,**
 who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.
**We walk in the company of the woman with the
 flow of blood,**
 who audaciously sought her healing and release.
We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,
 who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ ap-
 peared.
We walk in the company of Phoebe,
 who lead an early church in the empire of Rome.
We walk in the company of Perpetua of Carthage,
 whose witness in the third century led to her martyr-
 dom.
**We walk in the company of Saint Christina the
 Astonishing,**
 who resisted death with persistence and wonder.
We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,
 who wed imagination and theology, proclaiming well-
 ness as reality.
We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,
 who stood against oppression, righteously declaring
 her womanhood in 1852.
**We walk in the company of the Argentine Mothers
 of the Plaza de Mayo,**
 who turned their grief to strength, standing together to
 remember the disappeared children of war with a holy
 indignation.
We walk in the company of Alice Walker,
 who named the purple hue of womanish strength.
**We walk in the company of you mothers of the
 faith.**
 who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with
 wisdom, and to hear.
Amen.

VU556 Would you bless our homes and families vs. 3
 & 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER
 pg. 914/916:

Loving God inspire us to bring the changes Jesus
 would want

Response: VU226 For the Beauty of the Earth vs. 3

OFFERING/OFFERTORY:

VU218 We praise you, O God vs. 1
We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

BLESSING

BENEDICTION (**MV212** Sent out in Jesus' name)
**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
 to make the world the place in which the kingdom
 comes.**
**The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
 into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**
The task is our to do, to set it really free.
O, help us to obey, and carry out your will

POSTLUDE: Processional *William Mathias*

Announcements

A special thank you to our quartet of singers today:
 Judy Oatway, Diane Wreford, Nicki LeGrand, Sarah
 Cory.

Westworth is offering a Book Study and inviting St.
 Andrew's to join them. If anyone is interested, please
 contact Westworth.

If you or anyone you know has a special birthday, an-
 niversary or celebration coming up let us know so that
 we can announce it.

We would like to acknowledge our University and High
 School Grads in June so if you are aware of any of our
 youth and young adults graduating let me know. We
 would love to list their names and what they graduated
 from and for the High Schoolers what their plans are
 for the next year. Send information to the church office
 or to Rev. Karen Lumley.

Next Sunday is our Outreach Sunday and we will be
 filming at Oak Table. You will be so excited about the
 new renovations. Join us Sunday as we worship to-
 gether

Scripture readings for next week:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who
 helped with today's service—we couldn't
 have pulled it off without you!

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