

Mother's Day, May 10th 2020.
Emmanuel United Church, North Bay
My name is Rev. Roni Beharry.
Welcome to worship at Emmanuel United Church
on behalf of Elizabeth, John and Lorne.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We light this candle because the light of Christ shines in this community and in each one of us as we participate in, and live in anticipation of God's hope. Today we celebrate the faith of our mothers on this day and their special way of bearing witness to Christ's light and love.

At Emmanuel United Church in North Bay, we strive to be a welcoming, caring community, committed to practices of spiritual nurture and sharing God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Welcoming our Viewers:

We welcome all our viewers, closer to home here in North Bay and from wherever you call home.

Music for centering: "For the Beauty of the Earth" VU#226
(selected by Barbara Johnson)

Let's take a moment to breathe and centre ourselves.

Call to Worship: Psalm 33: 1-3

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
It is fitting for the upright to praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song;
And Jesus said, "Come!"
To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"
to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"
to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"
Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart
and you will find rest for your souls."

Written by: Carol Penner, posted on Leading in Worship. <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>

Hymn: "When Mothers of Salem" #609 The Hymnary Verses 1 and 2

Hymn: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU#375 vs. 1, 2 and 3
(selected by: Zona Beeson)

Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" VU#602
(selected by: Mary Lawrence)

Opening Prayer:

Creator God we truly miss being together as community, Your love tethers us one to another. Your spirit keeps us connected as members of Christ's body. We thank you for the creativity to worship you on this day through the power of technology and the power of your Holy Spirit. May our hearts be inspired by song and may our faith soar to new heights as we share the faith of our mothers in song and word. Amen.

We pray to God:

Our mother and father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever, Amen

Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings" VU #808 verses 1,3 and 4
(selected by: Cathy Conrad)

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6: 6-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 7: 24-27 (*paraphrase for Mother's Day*)

Meditation: "Faith of Our Mothers" (five minutes)

Elizabeth Henderson, John Henderson, Lorne Robertson, Roni Beharry

Prayer of Ascription:

To all mothers, everywhere, and to those who have
lost or are separated from their mother:
May you have what you need and also what feeds your soul.

May you have what you need to hold you family safe both in your heart and in this world.

For those fortunate to have all this, may you open your heart and your door to share it with those who do not.

For those who wait in hope of bringing their family together in safety, may you find the strength to create necessary peace and comfort in this and each coming day, and may open doors and hearts bring you together at last in a safe home.

For all of us, do not be afraid to hope and to dream.

In dreams, we make our hope real. In hope, we answer and command our fears. Do not depend on your hope, but hold it like a lantern to light your way.

Produced by the Uniting Church of Australia, (Anthea Falkenberg, Facebook post, 2019) taken from <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=403>

Hymn: “Will Your Anchor Hold” VU #675 verses one and two
(selected by: Ruth Trottier)

Announcements:

Offering

Offertory Prayer:

Mothering God, we thank you for the endless self-sacrifices of our mothers: their varied forms of courage, care and nurture all the days of our lives. They are there for us, at each stage: each milestone and through many stumbling blocks on our life’s journey. With these offerings, we offer ourselves in a similar way, as holy companions to each other in the way of Jesus. Bless our heart’s desire to serve selflessly. Grant us a caring spirit.

Hymn: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” VU#509 verses 1 and 2
(selected by: Cathy Conrad)

The Lighting of a Prayer (memory) candle

Litany for Mothers: (adapted from – the Uniting Church of Australia <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=403>)and written by Amy Young)

To those who gave birth this year to their first child -
we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child - we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear

the badge of food stain - we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions,
or running away - we mourn with you

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes,
prods, tears, and disappointment - we walk with you. Forgive us when
we say foolish things.

We don’t mean to make this harder than it is

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms -
we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children -
we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your
children - we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year - we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother -
we acknowledge your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall
testing of motherhood - we are better for having you in our midst

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your
own children - we mourn that life has not turned out the way you
longed for it to be

To those who stepparent - we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that
dream is not to be - we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year - we grieve
and rejoice with you

To those who placed children up for adoption - we commend you for
your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and
surprising- we anticipate with you

This Mother’s Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of
heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

(Source: By Amy Young, [Messy Middle the messymiddle.com](http://MessyMiddle.the.messymiddle.com))

Mother's Day Pastoral Prayer:

God on this day we pray for a blessing on all who play the role of mother in diverse ways, bless them with health, renew their strength, and nurture their faith...

May they know your compassion, healing, comfort...grant them your good gifts for the journey. We thank you for the unique ways in which they live your love, for they are a blessing to many. They make your love complete. Help us all to make your love complete. We include the following persons in our prayers today...Amen.

Hymn: for Going Out into God's World

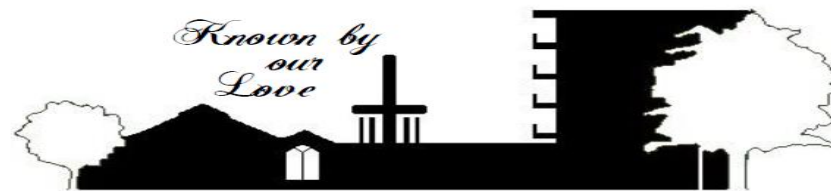
Hymn: "In the Bulb There is a Flower" VU#703

Commissioning and Benediction

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us,
now and for ever.
Amen.

~ from *A Service for Mothering Sunday from the Church of England website.*
<http://www.churchofengland.org/>

Sung Blessing: "Three-fold Amen"



*Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring,
welcoming faith community, nurturing
spiritual life and sharing God's love
and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*

May 10th, 2020

Mother's Day

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