



**WE GATHER**  
**CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP AND MOTHER'S DAY**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

**Territorial Acknowledgment** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

**Introit:** "Somewhere a Child is Singing"

**WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** *(Rev. Roni)*

We are in the Easter season, this is the Sixth week of Easter,  
We celebrate seven weeks of Easter in total.

The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ, from death to life,

**this hope is graciously extended to each of us by God.**

We light the Christ candle remembering that Christ is Risen Indeed!

We are a resurrection people!

*Written by: Bill Perry, Havelock-Trent River P.C. Havelock, Ont., Gathering 2021*

**Call to Worship:**

Jesus you first called us friends.

We are humbled that you would think so highly of us.

You accept us with our vulnerabilities and our strengths.

You lay down your very life for us.

You consecrate human friendship in your friendship with us.

We are humbled that you would think so highly of us.

May we be inspired by your deep love for us

as we live your love.

**Let us pray:**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Jesus, your love flows from the very heart of God,**

**In your earthly life, you enjoyed great spiritual intimacy with the  
one you called Father.**

**Through faith in you we share in that special relationship.**

**We gather to be renewed in that love,  
for love is your intention.**

**You reach out to us including us as friends,**

**and you empower us to love each other as friend of a Friend.**

**You are the great friend that we all share in common.**

**We are thankful that there are no limits to this friendship because  
the love of the One who extends it is boundless. Glory be to God,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** "Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love" VU#574  
(vs 1&4)

**Prayer of Confession:**

Spirit of love, we come in search of love  
and in the hope of learning how to love  
as you love us.

Help us to see others with your eyes of love.

Help us to forgive and accept forgiveness  
as fully and confidently as you forgive.

Love us, dear God, with the mercy and grace we need  
to abide in your love each and every day.

In your love and grace, we pray. **Amen.**

*Written by: Mary Scifres, the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

**Words of Assurance:** *(Rev. Roni)*

God's steadfast love is ours.

God's faithfulness is sure.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer of Preparation:** *(Rev. Roni)*

Holy Spirit, help us to open our hearts,  
to be fully present, so that we might hear what  
you are saying to us this day. Bless us  
with your presence on the journey. **Amen.**

**Psalm 98**

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

*One: This is the prayer of our ancestors of faith.*

**ALL: Thanks Be To God!**

**Gospel Reading:** John 15: 9-17 **Jesus calls us friends.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

**ALL: Glory to you O Christ.**

**Hymn:** "Bless Be the Tie that Binds" VU#602

**Sermon:** "You are my friends" (Rev. Roni)

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Announcements:** (Rev. Roni)

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Blessing:**

**God of overflowing abundance,**

**you bless our lives with gifts of love, grace and beauty.**

**With this portion, we sacrificially give of our very selves for the life and work**

**of your church in the world. Bless our giving, and inspire us to live your love in the communities within which you place us. May your joy be made complete in us. Complete your circle of love. As friends in Christ we pray, Amen.**

**Choral Trio:** "When Mothers of Salem" Hymnary#609

**The Lighting of the Memory Candle**

**Mother's Day Prayer and Pastoral Concerns:** "

### SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE

**Hymn:** "My Love Colours Outside the Lines." MV 138

**Benediction:** (Rev. Roni)

Beloved may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you this day and forevermore,

Go and make Jesus's joy complete!

Draw wider still, the Circle of Friends in Christ. **Alleluia! Amen!**

**Go now in peace:**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

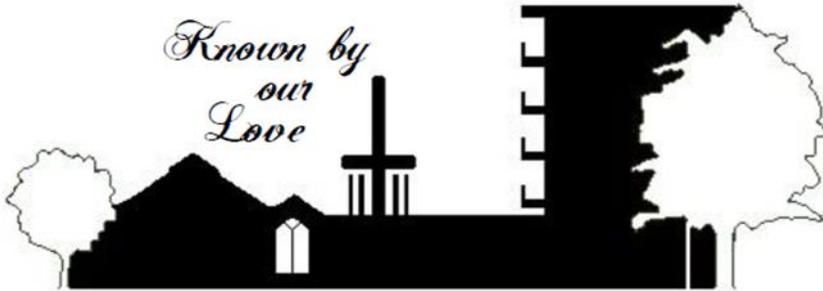
**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there watching from above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

**Postlude:** "For the Beauty of the Earth VU#226



*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.*

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## *A Prayer for Mother's Day*

Loving God, help us make Mother's Day more meaningful.

Help us make it a time of generosity through our Mission & Service that helps change the lives of families at home and around the world.

Help us make it even more of a celebration of those extraordinary people in our lives we call mom, who are like mothers to us, and to people of all genders, as well as trans and non-binary persons who offer mothering care.

Help us make it more supportive of mothers who have lost children, children who have lost mothers, women who long to be mothers, and those who choose not to be mothers.

Help us make it more open to those who don't fit the traditional model of family and feel left out during this holiday.

Help us make it more caring of single moms, new moms, and those looking after their moms during the pandemic without the social supports that are usually in place.

Help us make it more aware of those whose mothering responsibilities stretch across decades to span a lifetime.

Help us make it more loving for those who want to draw closer to their mother and more healing for those who need to keep a distance.

Help us make Mother's Day more, O God.

More generous...more open...more caring.

We pray this in your holy name.

Amen.

<https://united-church.ca/prayers/prayer-mothers-day>



**Rev. Roni EMERGENCY Contact: 1-416-271-5313**

***Please note that Rev. Roni is off Monday & Tuesday.***