

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

6th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day and Christian Family Sunday

May 14, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue to be mask friendly: it is a personal decision. Thank you.

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: On this sixth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate that women were first to the tomb and first with the Good news that Jesus was alive after his death and crucifixion. It is also Mother's Day and Christian Family Day, when we celebrate the special role that a mother has to birth us and the importance of the Christian family. Today we all give thanks for the woman who birthed us into this world and are grateful for the gift of life she brought to us. We are also grateful for all the mothers we know who bless our lives with their kindness, though they may not be related but regard us as family.

Congregation: Dear God, for all the mothers here this day; for those not with us, who we have lost to death, separation, mental illness or dementia; those who live far away from us, mothers all, who blessed us with the gift of life, we give grateful thanks and ask You to bless them wherever they are, in this reality or the next.

Leader and People: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

God of all life, we thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of baptism, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other in faith and Life.

**Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers:
who cared for us when we were helpless,
who comforted us when we were hurt,
whose love and care we usually took for granted,
as we often take Your love for granted.**

Today we pray for:

**those who are grieving the loss of their mother,
maybe even years after they were separated;
those who never knew their biological mother,
and now yearn for her; those who have experienced the wonder of an
adopted mother's love; the families separated in the wars across the earth**

Lord God give them all special blessings.

**Keep us united the way Jesus intended, so that we can nurture all people
with unconditional love. Amen.**

HYMN: #376 Lord, the light of your love is shining (All verses.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):

God of love, we are grateful for the love you bless us with in our homes and families. Yet you know family life is not always easy. Our love for each another gets strained some days. Forgive us if we have taken our family for granted. Give us grace to repair relationships where strain is showing. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister):

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ –
And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to love more fully by God’s generous grace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also, with you

- Please turn and greet one another

ANTHEM

STORY: “Unnoticed Moms”

HYMN:#703 Happy the home when God is there Verses 1,3 & 4

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Mothers at work!)

Old Testament: Exodus 2:1-10 (page 41)

Gospel: St. Luke 2: 41-52 (page 725)

SERMON: “Mothering: One tough job!”

MOMENT OF MUSIC

OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #79 - Offering brought forward.

Your offering can be left on the plates upon entering the service.

**Thank you for your gifts and prayers
for the mission and outreach of Knox Stratford.**

Prayer of Dedication (Together): **God our Creator and Redeemer, you made us in love to share that love with neighbour and stranger as Jesus commanded. Take our gifts and make them tokens of your love we can share throughout our community and in the world you love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN: #444 Sweet is the solemn voice Verse 1. (Please stay seated)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY AND CHRISTIAN FAMILY DAY (Together):



God of homes and families, this Sunday we give you thanks for our families, especially remembering mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers. We are grateful for their love and attention, their hard work and the deep hope they have cherished for each one of us. We honour before you each one who has mothered us and now lives with you in your eternal care. And we ask your blessing on each one in our family who continues to care for us, cook for us and worry about us. God with a loving heart; hear our prayer.

HYMN: #433 All creatures of our God and King Verses 1, 4 & 5.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments following the service.

Change Her World - Underwear Challenge: When Change Her World began 13 years ago, one of their goals was to collect 20,000 pairs of underwear for girls in Malawi. Only 1000 more pairs are needed for this achievement to be realized. Our Knox Outreach project for the month of May will be to collect underwear as our contribution to achieving the goal. The underwear must be 100% cotton and a brief style. They need ladies' sizes Small and Medium and girls' sizes Small, Medium and Large. Donations can be put in the basket on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Supply Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson
Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer
142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2
519-271-0373 knoxs@wightman.ca