



Fifth Sunday of Easter - A
May 10, 2020
Mother's Day

Key Scripture - John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Theme - A Place Prepared for You



Welcome All

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook



[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
- Our church building is closed but our Congregation is Open and Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care
- Church business will be conducted remotely as much as possible
- Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and our WebPage

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 6 May 2020

- Comfort

 - A Mother's Love

 - There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

 - There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

 - There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

 - For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

 - Author Unknown*

- Communication

 - Trinity United Church News and Updates -

 - Our Congregation is active in Prayer, Care and Service
 - Worship Services are replayed

- On COGECO - Your TV Sundays at 10:00 and 2:00
 - On the Trinity Web Page and FaceBook at our regular Service Time, 10:30 Sunday Morning
 - This Sunday is Mother's Day -
 - We celebrate a Mother's Love and consider how that love is like God's Love. It is a simple truth that bears reminding from time to time.
 - Some of our folk are making Non-Medical Face Masks. Arlene Hunter is helping to coordinate our efforts.
 - Our Food Distribution efforts on Tuesday and Saturday, continues. Please contact Betty Lou Kempt at 613-291-0701 if you would like to help
 - **The Christian Community Team is able to distribute Take Away Lunches to those who find meal preparation a challenge during these days. Please let us know if this would be helpful and we will serve as we are able**
 - Our Stewardship Team, Treasurer and Trustees are mindful about finances.
 - **All our geraniums are sold.** Thank you Barb Byam and the Stewardship Team.
 - This may be a good time to start using Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) in whole or in part. It is an easy and consistent way to support the congregation
 - Grocery / Gift Cards are still available for sale - Contact the Church Office at - 613 283 4444
- Connection
- If you would like the latest posts from the church but have not been receiving updates by email, we may not have your address.
- Care

- The Healing Pathway Team and others are actively praying together starting at 1:00 pm every Wednesday.
 - This week, we remember those whose names have been given us with a Mother’s heart.

If you want to be contacted regularly by phone, contact the church and let us know - the church office number is - 613 283 4444

COVID-19 Community Meal Distribution Points

Monday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Tuesday	Trinity United Church - Brown Bag & Blessing Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday	St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society 4 McGill St (Hanley Hall)	12:00 - 12:30 pm
Thursday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Friday	Mississippi Rideau Lakes - Salvation Army 251 Brockville St	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday	Trinity United Church - Volunteers from - SFDCI Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Sunday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican Delivery Only	11:00 am - 12:30 pm

St. John the Evangelist Anglican has a “delivery only” model of food distribution. Lunches will be left at the door that the participant indicates.



SMITHS FALLS
RISE AT THE FALLS

We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals that are being offered during this State of

Emergency are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program

We are also grateful for the gracious gift of volunteers from Smiths Falls and District Collegiate Institute who make meals on Saturdays possible.

People who prepare and people who serve are screened. Conditions under which the food is prepared is consistent with best practices respecting COVID-19

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner

Introit "The Way, The Truth, The Life" (x 2)

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
No one cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

Call to Worship

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

We are not troubled. We believe in God!

God's house has many dwelling places.

Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Let us worship God, made known to us in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Gathering

Steadfast and loving God,

you are our refuge in times of trouble and
our shelter when we are afraid.

In you alone we trust.

In you we see our way forward and discover what is real.

In you we find abundant life.

And so we offer you our worship and love

as the God who creates and gives life to the world,

as the Son who preached the truth of the good news,

and the Holy Spirit who guides us; this day and always.

Amen.

Hymn 661 "Come To My Heart"

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Fill me with love today.

Give me the peace and joy That only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Learning with Children

There are ways of trusting cautiously that causes us to miss the full comfort that should accompany it.

Our nephews and nieces and daughter are all in their 30's which means that the days of taking children to the exhibition are on pause. Grand children will return that time... but not yet.

The exhibitions that Lorraine and I remember were akin to the Lombardy Fair. Mostly, the attractions are the barns, exhibits and various competitions. Displays of compact tractors with backhoe attachments were and remain my favourite.

Children, however, nieces and nephews, Adrienne and her friends were mostly attracted to the Midway. Varying degrees of daring and height led the children to the giant rides. I was delegated the responsibility of accompanying youngsters on the Ferris Wheel and the Zipper which were the favourites of the most bold. From the ground, these rides were awesome.

I trust the rides. My working assumption was always that the people who set them up and run them know what they are doing and all rides are subject to routine inspection and maintenance. This confidence rested in my head; it was not always fully my experience. I was not the person gleefully rocking the cage of the Zipper to flip or to invert. I was not waving excitedly as the Zipper was locked in the upside down position. My focus tended to rest at the attachment point between the cage and the rest of the giant machine and cotter pins that held the whole thing together. The complete confidence that I presented to the children was a lie.

Today is Mother's Day. Today, we will consider what we almost always think about on Mother's day. Today we will try not to be distracted by those things that cause us to lose sight of a Mother's love. We will try to focus on that love all by itself and remember that God's love for us is like that best love we have ever seen, the love of a mother. Even with other distractions, as important as they are, that call our attention away.

Call to Reconciliation

Let us join together as we admit our human frailty -

Prayer of Confession

Steadfast and loving God,

We confess that

while we know Christ is

the way, the truth and the life,

we follow him imperfectly.

Like Thomas we say, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

**So, we carve out our own paths
and pursue our own ways.**

Forgive us.

Give us courage to follow Jesus who continues to show us the way.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not let your hearts be troubled;

know that, in Christ, you are forgiven.

Accept God’s grace and forgiveness this day,

and extend it to others for Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

Scripture Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (VU 758); John 14:1-14

Refrain - *I trust in you; you are my God.*

In you, O God, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

Deliver me in your righteousness;

incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue.

Refrain - *I trust in you; you are my God.*

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

**You are indeed my rock and fortress;
lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.**

Release me from the net that they hid for me, for you are my protector.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.**

Refrain - *I trust in you; you are my God.*

My times are in your hands;

deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and save me, for your mercy's sake.**

Refrain - *I trust in you; you are my God.*

John 14:1-6a

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. ***How can we know the way?***”

Jesus said to him, “*I am the way*, and the truth, and the life.

Hymn MV 133 "Jesus Laughed Out Loud"

Jesus laughed out loud to see the children play;
His joyful presence drew a crowd we could not send away.

Jesus healed a child by asking her to rise,
And doubtful people wept and smiled to see her open eyes.

Jesus felt the need; we made the crowd sit down.
A boy had faith and all were fed, though we were far from town.

Jesus climbed a hill to pray and rest alone;
We wondered why we felt the chill of wind and wood and stone.

Jesus called my name when he was passing by;
My life will never be the same; this love will never die.

Reflection

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus offers these words of comfort, assurance and love. Thomas and then Phillip are unable to experience the love and comfort that Jesus describes because they are distracted by worry and concern. Jesus brings them back with -

“I am the way”

This is Jesus’s way of saying, “Look at me.” Preoccupation with surrounding and circumstance is robbing you of the simple and available realization of Divine love. Just as surely as staring at a cotter pin robs one of the supposed joy of a Ferris Wheel....

The confidence and joy that is supposed to be part of a Ferris Wheel or Zipper was much more clear in others as I watched them from the ground than it was in myself when I was watching a cotter pin go round and round ...

This is Mother’s day. Where do we have an unobstructed view of a mother’s love? Where do we look?

Let us strip away conversations about who is a mother or who is like a mother... let us enter simply into an image of that greatest, purest love - the ideal, free from judgement, expectation or anxiety.

It may be hard to imagine that love received. Like Thomas and Philip, our own recollections of love received as a child may be lost to us because we were so young or our memory may be cluttered with the concern, or circumstance or need that was a part of the experience into which our mother’s love entered.

It may be hard to recall that love given. The memory or experience of your own love may have been cluttered with your own anxieties - am I a good enough mother or parent? Am I a good enough Aunt or Uncle? Am I loving this child correctly? Is my house clean enough? Am I properly understanding what my child wants or needs? Will I be able to offer it?

If you are old enough. If you are past the years that you were worried about yourself as caregiver or if you are a good enough parent. If you are

past the years that your life is not so cluttered with competing concerns. You likely have had the opportunity to witness the love of a Mother whom you love, a daughter or a niece or neighbour without the distraction of your own anxieties, insecurities or busyness. Like seeing how wonderful a ferris wheel is from the ground.

What does that love look like?

The eyes of the Mother and the child share an unbroken gaze. Amid cooing and gurgling, the gaze continues. There is studied amazement. The child is curious about and responsive to every expression; as is the mother. It is like watching somebody gaze into a magic mirror. The created is fascinated with and lost in the creator, just as the creator is fascinated with and lost in the creation.

Everything the child does is amazing. “Oh look, she squinted... That's amazing” Every gurgle, every grunt, every uncoordinated movement of the hands and arms and feet are received with astonishment as if the child were committing a series of little miracles. Filling a diaper is met with the same praise and wonderment as earning a Law Degree.

Imagine a time when you witnessed that love and interaction. Imagine those times when you witnessed that love, completely unaware of any latent insecurity or concern that the mother may have harboured in her heart. Imagine that love as you saw it. Rest in it.

In a time before you can remember, you were loved completely like that.

In moments that you were able to remove yourself from other distractions or worries, you loved completely like that.

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*”**

And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

As an infant we did not query our mother as to how her arms would support us, there was pure comfort in knowing that her arms were there. There was no concern as to what your mother saw in you, there was just comfort in the loving gaze. We did not analyze if or how that gaze was warranted. We were not even intentional in the gaze we gave back. We mirrored love in its purest form. This love was and is a place of Grace. We knew that place, there was no question about the way.

This Mother’s Day, remember that you were loved that much.

Rest in that knowledge and know that that love and grace was and is an echo of the love God has for you.

AMEN.

Hymn 365 "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so,
little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain -

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”

Refrain -

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain -

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

While the season of Easter unfolds, the gifts of spring also remind us of God's generosity in Christ and in creation.

As we present our gifts this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope for abundant life in Christ Jesus.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca . Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S. and/or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca.

***Offering Prayer**

Generous God,

We bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ

and displayed in springtime growth in fields and gardens.
Bless the gifts we bring to you.

May they offer hope and renewal
in the world you love
as we serve in the name of your greatest gift,
Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Meditation "Amazing Grace"

Prayers of the People

'High Flight'

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high unsurpassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee

You free our hearts from trouble and prepare a place of love for all
your children.

We thank you for your promise and your peace.

In Christ, we know you as the way.

You deliver all who turn to you in moments of challenge or uncertainty.

We pray for those who feel lost or alone,
those who live with anxiety and doubt
and any who are fearful of what tomorrow might bring.

God of the Way,
open the eyes of those who are struggling
so that they can see that there is a new way
filled with hope,
the promise of rest and renewal.

In Christ, we know you as the truth.

We pray for those who are deceived by the fabrications of power
and any who are misled by distortions and twisted claims.

Empower us to see what is true.

In Christ, we know you as the life.

You promise to overcome all that is rooted in decay.

We pray for people who struggle with illness or grief
and all who live with deep sadness, depression or hopelessness.

We pray for those for whom abundant life is denied
by acts of discrimination
or the loss of what seemed like security just weeks ago.

God of all Life and each life,
Heal those who are suffering

and make your justice known in our land.

Help us to follow in the footsteps of Christ
so that in our living and loving,
your kingdom of justice and love is revealed.

We thank you for -
A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly becomes real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

- Author Unknown

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from
which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Friend -

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

Our 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 178 "Who Is My Mother"

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 labelled,
Widen the circle round Jesus Christ:

Crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
All come together 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. Amen!

Benediction

May the blessings of the One who is the Way be with you in the days to come.

May God guide our feet wherever we go.

May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life be with you in the days to come.

May he lead us by the hand to those who are our sisters and brothers in need.

May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth be with you in the days to come.

May we journey with the Spirit to that way which is everlasting.

Choral Amen

Postlude "RCMP Regimental March"