

Sacrifice + Selfless +
Caring + hardworking

Key Scripture - John 15: 13

No one has greater love than this, to lay
down one's life for one's friends.

Theme - A Mother's Sacrifice



= MOTHER

Welcome and Announcements

- † **Newcomers please sign our guestbook**
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † **A Stay at Home Order has been issued. We will not meet in person for worship at least until the order is suspended.**
- † Services will be posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to our Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- † **As a consequence of the current Stay at Home Order and the possibility that our situation may remain fluid afterward, we have postponed our Annual General Meeting until 13 June 2021.**
- † **Stewardship Update**
 - Annual Geranium Sale
 - Geraniums are sold out! Those who purchased will receive

a telephone call prior to May 29, 2021 with a scheduled time to pick up their order.

† **Trinity Compost Sale at REAL**

- Plan to pick up a bag or two of compost
- **Sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 22 & 23**
 - **Curbside pickup will be arranged**
 - Best Mushroom Compost ever!
 - You may Pre-Order through the Office at 613-283-4444
 - **30 litre bags for \$10.00**

† From our Treasurer -

- As of April 24, 2021 our financial position looks like this:
 - Income: \$82,177.07
 - Expenses: \$87,132.31
 - Deficit: \$4,955.24
- We are receiving some funds by the Canada Emergency Fund, but not enough to cover expenses.
 - Our M&S payments are up-to-date.
 - We are making our assessment payments to the United Church of Canada in a timely manner.
- As you can see the church still has many operating expenses and our revenue is not meeting expenses at this time. Please remember Trinity during this time of lockdown so that we can continue to ***Connect, Inspire, Serve!***
 - You can submit your givings by
 - Mail
 - e-transfer to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca or
 - using the "Donation" button on Trinity's website at <https://www.trinityunitedsf.ca/>

If you do not already track news and events in our larger Church Community, you may wish to [visit the United Church of Canada Website](#). [E-ssentials](#) is a helpful NewsLetter you may wish to consider.

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

Introit "When He Cometh"

When he cometh, when he cometh,
To make up his jewels,
All his jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and his own.

Refrain -

***Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for his crown.***

Little children, little children,
Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and his own.

Refrain -

***Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for his crown.***

Call to Worship

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Let us make known the Lord's victory,

for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Let us sing joyful praises,

and join all creation to worship God's holy name.

Opening Prayer

Holy God,

The power of your love is beyond comprehension,

the breadth of your compassion without measure.

In Jesus Christ, you have met us in the midst of life's joys and challenges

and shown us what it means to love and be loved.

You have entrusted us with the greatest commandment

to love one another as Christ has loved us.

In this time of worship, we offer you our love and loyalty,

seeking to learn more of what love and loyalty mean for us

in the midst of our joys and challenges.

Receive our prayers and praise,

and through the power of your Spirit, draw us closer to you

and closer to each other as friends and followers of Christ,

our Risen Lord.

Hymn "When Mothers of Salem"

When mothers of Salem, their children brought to Jesus,

The stern disciples drove them back and bade them depart;

But Jesus saw them, e're they fled, and sweetly smiled and kindly said,

“Suffer little children to come unto me.”

“For I will receive them and fold them to my bosom:
I'll be a shepherd to these lambs, O drive them not away;
For if their hearts to me they give, they shall with me in glory live:
Suffer little children, to come unto me.”

How kind was our Saviour to bid these children welcome!
But there are many thousands who have never heard his Name;
The Bible they have never read, they know not that the Saviour said,
“Suffer little children to come unto me.”

Time With Children

When we take up the offering on Sunday and then say a prayer of Thanksgiving, we often make some comment about God's Gift being greater than our ability to give thanks.

What does God give that makes us so thankful? What does God give that is so much greater than we can say?

Life, Love, Lessons

That is a very short list of the most important things. It is hard to have an expression of thanks that matches God's Gift.

Do you know who else gives us something for which it is impossible to thank too much?

It is pretty hard to thank our Mothers for all they do. Somehow, Mothers seem to be happy with tokens of love. So this week, we sent out a kit that can help you make a token of love. You will have received parts to make a card if you wish and to make a paper flower. I am going to make this for Lorraine. She likes poppies ...

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for the gifts of Life, Love and Learning. We thank you for Mothers. Help us to remember to give thanks to and for our Mothers on Mother's Day and every day. Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

Merciful God,

We confess we often find it difficult to love others as you commanded.

Though we intend to do your will, our priorities lead us in other directions.

We seek our own security before the well-being of others.

We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good.

We justify our own interests

and fail to understand the cost they take on the earth and other people.

Forgive us.

Redirect our priorities and renew our commitment to live out your love

even when it demands more of us than we expect.

Assurance of Blessing

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us?

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 made new by God's generous grace.

Scripture Psalm 98 (VU 818);
1 John 5: 1-6;
John 15: 9-17

Psalm 98 (VU 818)

Refrain -

*Sing a new song unto God,
who has done such marvellous things.*

Sing to God a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

**You have made known your salvation,
and revealed before the nations your saving power.**

You have remembered your steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain -

*Sing a new song unto God,
who has done such marvellous things.*

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

break into joyous praise, sing psalms.

Sing psalms to God with the harp,

with the harp and melodious voice.

With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.

Refrain -

*Sing a new song unto God,
who has done such marvellous things.*

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world, and its inhabitants.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
the hills sing together for joy before God.

You come to judge the earth, O God,
to judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Refrain -

*Sing a new song unto God,
who has done such marvellous things.*

1 John 5: 1-6;

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

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.

Meditation "O Tempo" (Rocha)

Reflection

The Gospel Lesson this morning is wonderful. It essentially lays out or summarizes much of what was in the children’s time. There is Life, there is love, there are commands or lessons. Added to this is sacrifice - *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*

Just as in the time with Children, one does not have to look long or hard to see how the life and the love of Jesus parallels the life and love that resides in the ideal of “Mother.”

Briefly this morning, I would like to reflect on three grand beliefs of traditional Christianity that find a parallel in the ideal of “Motherhood.”

- 1 - The ideal of Laying down your life for others -
- 2 - The ideal of bearing another’s burden -
- 3 - The ideal of equipping, of letting go, of setting free

Christianity that find a parallel in the ideal of “Motherhood” in - The ideal of Laying down your life for others -

Motherhood is costly. Raising children is expensive in countless ways. Groceries, clothing, piano lessons, tuition ... are just a few of

monetary costs. If you go out, you can add the cost of a babysitter. If you work outside of the home, you can add the cost of Daycare. This is just money. Continuing education and advancement at work are challenging. Mothers juggling multiple responsibilities. Those who do not have children in general have more time, more money, more opportunity, more promotions.

Full and complete, uninterrupted adult conversations are very often sacrificed. If you have young children at home, frequent Friday Date Nights with your friends become rare, even endangered. Road trips are punctuated more frequently with rest stops. With almost constant, sometimes conflicting demands, it might seem that you, your needs, your essence are lost in the deluge. A mother's life is laid down for those she loves, no doubt.

That said, there is satisfaction and reward in laying down your life for friends and family. Receiving love in return is a beautiful reward. It is true that if you are a mother that receives a coffee filter flower and hand made card today there is a reward in that. The love of a child is a precious gift.

But a mother does not just sacrifice for her grateful children. She lays down her life for everybody, everywhere... grateful or not. Like Jesus, Mothers lay down their life for people who simply do not appreciate it or care in the least.

I was reading a critique of the recent Federal Budget and the proposal for Universal Childcare. In the comments, I read this - *"My wife and I support no children so pray tell me why either she or I should be forced through taxation to pay for your kids to go to daycare?"* I find that such comments are highly disrespectful. And selfish. Mothers of today are raising the taxpayers and caregivers of the future. Investing in children and mothers today means that there will be a social underpinning to support us in the future. Even those who have no children of their own. This is worth much more than \$10.00 a day.

Mothers lay down their lives for others, their children, their community, those who appreciate it and those who do not.

Christianity finds a parallel in the ideal of “Motherhood” in - The ideal of bearing another’s burden -

Traditional Christianity carries a vision of Jesus taking on the sins of the world. The ideal of Motherhood includes bearing the burden of her children. I still keep my mother up at night. My mother has a whole list of her own concerns that she denies or ignores while she worries about her adult children who, I would suggest, are much less burdened than she is herself. She remains generous with her children even though each of us are materially better off than she. The ideal of a mother includes bearing the burdens of her children, their worries or concerns,... even when they are seemingly smaller than her own.

In addition bearing the worries and concerns of her children on her own or by her own volition or from within ... some folk are quite content to thrust the struggles or failures of the child on the mother. As if selfish comments in the news were not sufficiently uncharitable and uninformed, Facebook is filled with cringe-worthy comments and memes. Almost everyday there is some meme that outlines the good old days of responsible parenting that included a switch, a slap, a sternness, an unquestioned respect for any authority ... and cursive writing ... Where any of these are lacking and the child finds him or herself in trouble ... it is often the result of poor parenting, incompetent mothers ... or teachers. So the sins of the child are born by the mother, just as in traditional Christianity the sins of humanity are nailed to the cross.

Christianity finds a parallel in the ideal of “Motherhood” in - The ideal of equipping, of letting go, of setting free

I do not call you servants any longer, ... I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, ...

We are in the season of Easter. Soon it will be Pentecost. Jesus walked among his disciples for three years. He equipped the church at

Pentecost and then gave us the keys to the Kingdom. If you consider the prayer in John 17, this was quite difficult. It was also quite necessary.

My own dear mother, who still worries and stays awake from time to time thinking of her children ... gifted me with my first set of luggage. School's out time to go. Part of a mother's success is measured in an empty nest. How hard it must be. Your baby or babies are ready to take on the world. Letting go might be one of the harder obligations of Motherhood.

We have a number of young mothers in our congregation. We also have a little cadre of children who, we hope, will have made cards and flowers for this morning. We also hope that 20 - 25 years from now when our time is approaching its end, today's children will have received all the Life, Love and Lessons required to be caring members of the community which will be theirs to build. We hope that the children of our congregation and time will remember us kindly. Much may depend upon how we love and respect our mothers and motherhood today.

Hymn "Can A Little Child Like Me"

Can a little child like me
Thank the Father fittingly?
Yes, O yes! Be good and true,
Patient, kind in all you do;
Love the Lord, and do your part;
Learn to say with all your heart,

Refrain -

***Lord, God we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, in Heaven, we thank you.***

For the fruit upon the tree,
 For the birds that sing of thee,
For the earth in beauty dressed,
 Father, Mother, and the rest.
For your precious loving care,
 For your bounty everywhere,

Refrain -

***Lord, God we thank you,
 Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
 Lord, God, in Heaven, we thank you.***

For the sunshine warm, and bright,
 For the day and for the night,
For the lessons of our youth,
 Honour, gratitude and truth,
For the love that met us here,
 For the home and for the cheer.

Refrain -

***Lord, God we thank you,
 Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
 Lord, God, in Heaven, we thank you.***

For our comrades and our plays,
 And our happy holidays.
For the joyful work and true
 That a little child may do.
For our lives but just begun,
 For the great gift of your Son,

Refrain -

*Lord, God we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, we thank you,
Lord, God, in Heaven, we thank you.*

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus assures us that he will be present with his followers throughout every generation and in every culture and context.

As we offer our gifts in thanksgiving, remember that they continue to honour Christ Jesus as Lord of all times and all places.

Offering Prayer

Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love. Bless us and the gifts we bring so that our lives may reflect the hope and renewal we have found in Christ throughout our community and in the world you love, in his holy name. Amen.

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain -

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,*

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died

Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let his little child come in.

Refrain -

***Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,***

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, He will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
If I love him, when I die
He will take me home on high.

Refrain -

***Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,***

The Bible tells me so.

Prayers of the People

God of our lives and our loving,

We thank you for the signs of resurrection that are all around us,
showing that life is stronger than death.

Give us the grace to recognize and embrace the gifts of new life
that your love makes possible for us all,

as we pray for your resurrecting power to renew the world
amid all its challenges.

God of home and family,

today we thank you for our families,

especially for our mothers and 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 mother, grandmother and great
grandmother

who has died;

and we pray for all those who have felt isolated from their
families

in these months of pandemic.

Reunite us in your love.

God of connections and compassion,

Today we thank you for our friends and relations,

for the neighbours and fellow citizens who help to make our
lives complete.

We thank you for smiles shared, helping hands offered, commitments
honoured.

And we pray for all those around us who are facing particular
challenges this day...

Restore our hope with your love.

God of courage and new possibility,

Today we pray for all those who have felt life or love slipping
through their fingers in the times of distancing we've had to endure,

and for those who have struggled with their physical or mental health,
whatever the reason.

We pray for communities trying to sort out how to recover from the pandemic
and for all those worried about their personal future.

Encourage us with your love.

God of forgiveness and renewal:

Today we pray for those whose relationships are in need of repair
and for all who work for peace and reconciliation in the face of deep divisions.

We pray for families, churches, communities and countries facing conflict,
and ask that your Spirit open hearts and minds to deeper understanding.

Reconcile us through your love.

As friends and followers of Jesus, we offer the words he taught us,
precious to the whole family that claims his love -

Prayers conclude with:

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

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 157 "I Am A Child of God" vs 1,3,4,5

I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.

Benediction

As God has loved us,
we will love those with whom we share the world.
As Jesus has forgiven us,
**we will forgive everyone who has hurt us
and to bring healing into their lives.**
As the Spirit calls us 'friends,'
**so we will befriend the outcasts,
the lonely, and the lost of our society.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "When He Cometh" (arr. Young)