



## **GATHERING PRAYER:**

*Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.*

Lord God, you breathed the spirit of life within me.  
Draw out of me the light and life you created.  
Help me to find my way back to you.  
Help me to use my life to reflect your glory  
and to serve others as your son Jesus did. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## **PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

- ❖ In truth, a family is what you make it. It is made strong, not by number of heads counted at the dinner table, but by the rituals you help family members create, by the memories you share, by the commitment of time, caring and love you show to one another, and by the hopes for the future you have as individuals and as a unit. - *Marge Kennedy*
- ❖ In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together and the music that brings harmony. - *Eva Burrows*
- ❖ Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. - *Jane Howard*
- ❖ The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion. - *Paulo Coelho*

**SONG: *Who is my Mother, Who is my Brother?* (music at end of bulletin)**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Love shown –

**All: in a warm embrace,**

One: an understanding heart,

**All: a helping hand.**

One: Love renewed -

**All: in a forgiving word,**

One: an act of sharing,

**All: in a simple welcome.**

One: Love celebrated -

**All: in exuberant song,**

One: in a simple meal,

**All: in overflowing praise.**

One: Love given -

**All: by God,**

One: for all,

**All: To live in love, this is life in Christ.**

### ***OUR CONFESSION:***

One: Faithful God, patient Friend, source of true love, you have placed a longing for relationships deep within us. We yearn for the sacred circles of marriage, family and friendship. Yet how often do our lives fail to mirror your ways. We have often failed to love, walling ourselves up behind defenses and shunning the risks involved. We have not always respected the individuality of others, but often tried to remake them to suit our needs. We are selfish and self-absorbed, preoccupied with work and worry. We choose not to listen, to only half-hear the words of another. We neglect those who look to our love to discover yours.

Faithful God, patient Friend, restore our sense of belonging to each other. Heal our relationships and encourage us to be caring fathers, strong mothers and wise friends. Teach us the way of love and the path of Jesus.

**ALL: Amen.**

***THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: For Everyone Born, v. 1, 3 & 5***  
***(music at end of bulletin)***

### ***THE LESSONS: Matthew 12:46-50***

<sup>47</sup> Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>48</sup> But to the one who had told him this, Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

### ***John 19:24-27***

While the soldiers were looking after themselves, Jesus' mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.

**MESSAGE:** “We ♦ Are ♦ Family!”

**MESSAGE RESPONSE:** *Build a Longer Table* (music at end of bulletin)

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE SENDING OUT:**

**Leader:** May God, our Parent; Jesus, our Brother; and the Holy Spirit who daily empowers us to act as part of God’s family, strengthen and keep you in the love of God this day and always!

**All:** Amen.

**THE SENDING SONG:** *All My Relatives* (music at end of bulletin)

### **THE DISMISSAL:**

**Leader:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.



# Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother?

Eb Bb Eb Bb7 Eb  
 1 Who is my moth - er, who is my broth - er?  
 2 Dif - ferent - ly a - bled, dif - ferent - ly la - beled  
 3 Love will re - late us— col - or or sta - tus  
 4 Bound by one vi - sion, met for one mis - sion

Ab Gm Cm F Cm6 Bb  
 All those who gath - er round Je - sus Christ:  
 wid - en the cir - cle round Je - sus Christ:  
 can't seg - re - gate us, round Je - sus Christ:  
 we claim each oth - er, round Je - sus Christ:

Eb Bb Eb Bbm Eb7  
 Spir - it - blown peo - ple born from the gos - pel  
 crutch - es and stig - mas, cul - tures' e - nig - mas  
 fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings—  
 here is my moth - er, here is my broth - er,

Ab Eb Bb7 Eb  
 sit at the ta - ble, round Je - sus Christ.  
 all come to - geth - er round Je - sus Christ.  
 all are ac - cept - ed, round Je - sus Christ.  
 kin - dred in Spir - it, through Je - sus Christ.



For Everyone Born

Verses 1, 3 & 5

1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing in the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver head. And  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.  
 for young and for old, the right to be long.  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live.  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free.

God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and  
 joy com - pas - sion and peace; yes,  
 God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.

## Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

### All My Relatives

1. List - en my sis - ter, list - en my broth - er,  
2. Where there is hurt - ing, we share the hurt - ing.  
3. Where there is suff' - ring, we share the suff' - ring.

so man - y fea - tures, so man - y col - ors;  
Where there is jus - tice, we share the jus - tice.  
Where there is prais - ing, we share the prais - ing.

I have not loved you like I should love you  
Where there is mer - cy we share the mer - cy  
Where there is free - dom, we share the free - dom

if I be - lieve that God is love. Ev' - ry face,  
if we be - lieve that God is love.  
if we be - lieve that God is love.

all my rel - a - tives. Ev' - ry race, all my rel - a - tives.  
Ev' - ry place, all my rel - a - tives. Hear cre - a - tion  
sing, one with ev' - ry - thing.

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