

**Welcome to Grace United Church**  
**May 13, 2018 – Christian Family Sunday**

**Bold printed text** indicates congregational responses.

VU = Voices United Hymnbook      MV = More Voices Hymnbook

*Today's bulletin has been provided by Stan & Carolyn Lytle in honour of Stan's mother, Annie May (Holliday) Lytle's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Born 100 years ago today in Mount Forest.*

**CENTRING**

**PRELUDE**

"You Are My Sunshine"

Ukulele Band

**SHARING COMMUNITY**

**HYMN**

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

VU #644

**CENTRING WORDS**

Today, O God,

**We gather on Christian Family Sunday to give thanks in to pray for our families. We thank you for families rooted in love,**

where character is formed and values are learned,  
where lives are filled with hopefulness and laughter.

We acknowledge that families often disappoint us.

People fight; people hurt one another.

**Forgive us, gracious God.**

Where there is pain, resentment or bitterness, enter with your healing love. Open our hearts to families who suffer abuse and violence. Increase our compassion towards all with painful memories.

**We pray with hope that all families, may be a source of a blessing and abundant life. Amen.**

God on this Christian Family Sunday,

we pray for all households created and blessed by your love.

*Seniors:* **We thank you for old family photographs, and precious memories of loved ones. For the ability to dream dreams, and for the wisdom to interpret them.**

*Children:* **We thank you for helping hands and warm hugs; for people and pets who love us.**

*Adults:* **We thank you for relationships there grow dearer with time; for the laughter and the stories that bind us together.**

*Youth:* **We thank you for good friends and new ideas; for all that the future will hold, and for the confidence and hope to envision it.**

We are called to be the church - the family of Christ in every age.

**Today we renew our commitment to one another and to the journey we share. Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**            “Butterfly, Fly Away”            Youth Choir

**UP FRONT TIME** *Time for the young and young at heart*

**HYMN**                        “I Am a Child of God”                        MV #157

## **REFLECTING**

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**MINUTE FOR MISSION**            “A Life of Giving in Action”

**SCRIPTURE**                        1 John 5: 9-13

**HYMN**            “Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love”            VU #574

**SERMON**                        “We Are God’s Family”                        Sonya Bolek

## **RESPONDING**

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**SHARING OUR GIFTS & OFFERING MUSIC**            Gillian Bolek

**SUNG RESPONSE**            “What Can I Do?”                        MV #191

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Loving God, we come to you praying that you will enlarge our vision of family until it includes everyone that is part of your family. As family, we are asked to love and care for each other. We bring our gifts to you to support the members of your family, because they are also members of our family. Receive and bless our offering in the name of Risen Christ. Amen.

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**                        Children & Youth

After the words `Holy Spirit’ please respond:

“Be with us as we pray.”

**HYMN**                        “Go Make a Difference”                        MV #209

## **BENEDICTION**

And now, warmed by the sustaining memories of family and friends, strengthened by the families we have chosen for ourselves, knowing our membership in the great family of God, we leave this time and place of worship: with hearts open, with faith stronger, with purpose clear, to be God's family to one another and to God's world. May we go and confidence and promise for God is with us.

**CHORAL BLESSING**            “May God’s Sheltering Wings”            MV #214