

**“CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY”
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 10, 2020
10:30 A.M.**

*Crescent Fort Rouge is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender expression
Our mission is to invite all who would join us, to celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through worship, music, fellowship and outreach, to help us build a fairer and more joyful world*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

We gather for work and worship on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota nations, and the homeland of the Metis people. Long before adventurers, colonizers, settlers, refugees, or immigrants from other places came to the place we call Manitoba, the people of Canada’s first nations held this land as a sacred trust from the Creator. They offered assistance to the first travelers to this place and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. May our relationships as settlers and Original Peoples be based in honour and deep respect.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(SE Murray and others, adapted)*

Marc: We light this candle as a reminder that for us,
Jesus is the light of the world.

Voice 1: Jesus told us that we don't have to be afraid
of the dark,
because he will always be with us,
even until the end of time.

Voice 2: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has never put it out.

Marc: Deep calls unto deep,
life calls unto life,
light calls unto light.

Voice 3: And where the Spirit's flame burns bright,
where there is health and truth and light,
Christ is living
Christ is moving,
Christ will resurrect the world.

Voice 4: Our light may seem small and flickering,
But it bears the flame to another and another,
just as the flame of love is passed
from person to person.

Voice 5: We are a rainbow people, and in all our diversity
Christ's light shines through us, making us one

Voice 6: Here is God's good kin-dom!

AN INVITATION INTO CELEBRATION

Marc: The spirit of God calls us from many places;
we are different people, with different lives,
different histories, different hurts and hopes,
yet all children of the same Parent,
created lovingly by the Source of all life!

Voice 3: Here we seek to re-connect with one another,
creating an ever-expanding circle of community,
where we can bring our joys and our concerns—
a place of wisdom, of connection, of hope.

Voice 4: Here, we can come together in wonder,
sharing our growing edges
and our heartfelt longings.

Voice 5: Here we can come together in sorrow,
sharing our losses and our disappointments.

Voice 6: Here, we can come together in love,
sharing our service and our compassion

Voice 7: Here we pause and pray and listen.

Voice 8: We speak and read and dream.

Voice 9: We think and ponder and reflect.

Voice 10: We cry and laugh and reflect.

Voice 11: We mourn and celebrate and meditate.

Voice 12: We strive together for justice
and show each other mercy
and make real the vision of God.

Marc: And we trust that God is present with us now,
and always.

Let us pray.

PRAYER

Marc: God with a mother's heart,
you gather us as your children.

Voice 1: You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace.

Voice 2: When we hurt your arms enfold us.

Voice 3: When we are afraid your wings protect us.

Voice 4: When we are hungry
you feed us with the bread of life.

Voice 5: God with a mother's heart,
your love surrounds and supports us,

Voice 1: In good times and in tough...

Voice 2: In the midst of joy and pain...

Voice 3: Always and everywhere...

Voice 4: God, eternal and loving one,
you will never leave nor abandon us.

Voice 5: God with a mother's heart,
we thank you this day,
for being part of your family. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Marc:

Let us now offer together the words that Jesus' taught
us...

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON THE GOOD NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO READING

John 14:1-14 is part of Jesus' final discourse. Jesus tells the disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them, that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. But the disciples are confused. Thomas wants to be shown the Way, and Philip wants to be shown the Father. They do not get that Jesus is the way, Jesus is in the Father, that Jesus is all in all and he is right there with them. What Jesus does for us is what we should do for all—lay down our lives for one another as Christ lays down his life for us.

SCRIPTURE READING John 14:1-14 (The Message)

Voice 1: 14 ¹⁻⁴ “Don’t let this throw you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I’m taking.”

Voice 2: ⁵ Thomas said, “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”

Voice 1: ⁶⁻⁷ Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve even seen him!”

Voice 2: ⁸ Philip said, “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.”

Voice 1: 9-10 “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

“Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.

A READING “Last Testament,” *Bruce Prewer*

Voice 1: Don’t be troubled,
don’t be afraid,
if you trust God
then also trust me,
I go on ahead
and when you arrive, I will be there.

Voice 2: When you stumble
in the wild tempest,
when you flinch back
from the new frontier,
don’t be troubled,
don’t be afraid, I will be there.

Voice 3: When you toil long
without much reward,
when you bend low
with sorrow and care,
don't be troubled,
don't be afraid, I will be there.

Voice 4: When you are tired
of spending your faith,
when you're alone
with doubt and despair,
don't be troubled
don't be afraid, I will be there

Voice 5: When you are frail
and old eyes grow dim,
when you are dying
leaving those dear,
don't be troubled
don't be afraid, I will be there.

Voice 6: Now comes my cross,
now is my glory,
I'm the beginning
and I am the end,
don't be troubled
don't be afraid,
I am your Friend.

VIDEO RESPONSE "Christ Before Me," *from The Work of The People,*
used with permission

INTRODUCTION TO READING

1 Peter 2:2-10 references Jesus, who quotes Psalm 118:22 about being the rejected stone that becomes the cornerstone (Mark 12:10). The writer of 1 Peter is speaking to a persecuted, rejected group of followers of Jesus, and the writer is encouraging them to remember that they are beloved by God. They are now God's people and cannot be rejected by God. The writer reminds them to grow in their faithfulness to Christ, to allow themselves to become spiritual dwellings for God.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2:2-10 *The Message (MSG)*

Voice 2: 2¹⁻³ Clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God.

Voice 1: 4-8 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.

Voice 2: The Scriptures provide precedent.
 As the prophet, speaking for God, says:

Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion,
 a cornerstone in the place of honor.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation
 will never have cause to regret it.

To you who trust him,
he's a Stone to be proud of,
but to those who refuse to trust him,
the stone the workmen threw out
is now the chief foundation stone.

Voice 1: For the untrusting it's a stone to trip over,
a boulder blocking the way.

They trip and fall because they refuse to obey,
just as predicted.

Voice 2: ⁹⁻¹⁰ But you are the ones chosen by God,
chosen for the high calling of priestly work,
chosen to be a holy people,
God's instruments to do his work
and speak out for him,
to tell others of the night-and-day difference
he made for you—from nothing to something,
from rejected to accepted.

Voice 1: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

WE REFLECT

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Marc: To believe in resurrection
is to believe in the impossible;

Voice 1: To believe in the bread of life and living water
is to believe in that which cannot be proved;

Voice 2: To believe in the reality of the cross
is to believe in the reality of love.

Marc: Anchorite and mystic Julian of Norwich,
writing in 1390, put it like this:

"As truly as God is our father,
so just as truly is God our mother.

In our father, God Almighty,
we have our being;

In our merciful mother
we are re-made and restored.

Our fragmented lives are knit together
and made perfect.

And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace,
to the Holy Spirit,
we are made whole."

A PARAPHRASE OF PSALM 116, James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms*

Voice 1: When I was lost, God found me.

Voice 2: When I was alone, God walked with me.

Voice 3: When I was desperately lonely,
God listened to me
while I poured out my soul.

Voice 4: God is my lifelong friend now.

Voice 5: I was ready to give up;

Voice 6: I had nothing to live for any more;

Voice 7: I was so bone-weary I could have died.

Voice 8: When I hit bottom,
I turned my life over to God.

Voice 9: God was kind; God accepted my offer.

Voice 10: I could not have done it
when I was full of confidence;
I could not have let go.

Voice 11: But when I sensed the earth itself
disintegrating under me,
I had no more pride--
I cried out for help.

Voice 12: God took my hand and held me up.

Voice 13: God saved me from the grave.

Voice 14: God wiped away my tears,
and taught me to walk again.

Voice 15: I'm back in the land of the living,
but I will continue to walk with God. Amen.

AN INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP *Howard Carter, and others, adapted*

Marc: The God in whom we live move and have our being
knows us, loves us and sustain us.

Voice 1: God created the world and all that is in it,
knitted us together in our mother's womb
made us in God's own image
each one of us unique and individual--

Voice 2: Crafted by the Architect of creation:
we are God's household,
our hearts a shelter for the outcast;
our hands open to the stranger.

Voice 1: We are God's people,
created in the divine image:
to tell others of God's love,
to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

Voice 2: We are God's children,
called to give of ourselves:
chosen to serve the lost and lonely,
gifted to minister to a hurting world.

Marc: Let us now offer ourselves, our gifts, and our talents
to God for the sake of the ones God loves.

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN *(various sources)*

Marc: Let us pray.

Loving God, it is you who gave life and breath
to everyone in our world,
and in you alone can we find life,
breath and meaning for ourselves and our world.

Voice 1: Like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly,
You push us to stretch our wings and risk falling,
yet You do not abandon us but lift us up,
protecting us from evil.

Voice 2: Like a mother bear,
furious when her cubs are in danger,
You bring justice on those
who oppress the young.

Voice 3: Your Spirit comforts us
as one whom a mother comforts.

Voice 4: As a mother loves her child
so you love us.

Voice 5: We owe our very lives to you.

Voice 6: You have watched over us from our birth,
tenderly nurturing us,
showering us with love.

Voice 7: When we have needed you,
you have been there.

Voice 8: You have given us strength in times of need,

Voice 9: Comfort in times of distress,

Voice 10: Encouragement in times of despair,

Voice 11: Guidance in times of uncertainty.

Voice 12: Whatever we have faced, you have been with us.

Marc: Caring for us more than you care for yourself,
sacrificing your all for our sakes,
loving us with an unquenchable love,
you have called us to be your children.

Nourish us and teach us to become
all you created us to be

Help us to receive your power and love
so that others may draw life from us.

Voice 1: Creator God
in the chaos of this world
hunger, dis-ease, sickness,
Poverty of mind, body, spirit
use our hands and hearts for healing.

Voice 2: Mother God
nurture those who weep,
Comfort pain, sorrow, loss, despair, fear--
with strong arms sustain us
use our lives to bring forth your new creation.

Voice 3: Father God
nurture those who seek violence,
who abuse land, body, spirit.
By your Holy Spirit may all people
come to know your peace.

Voice 4: Brother Christ
hear us when we call out to you
from oppressions known and unknown;
help us name our fears and be healed.
May we live your compassion.

Voice 5: Sister Spirit
lift us up on angels wings
fill our hearts, minds, spirits, and bodies
with hope
that we might respond to God's call
with joyful song and praise.

Voice 6: God bless us and all creation with your love and care,
this day and every day. Amen.

WORDS OF BLESSING AND SENDING

(adapted from Mothering Sunday Prayers, Mother's Union)

Marc: May the One who brought us to birth by the Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the One who provides for all our needs
sustain us day by day.

May the One whose steadfast love
is constant as a mother's care,
send us out to live and work for others.

And may the blessing of God,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**