

May 25, 2008

Family Sunday

We love because God first loved us. –1 John 4: 19 NRSV

### Gathering and Praising

#### Music for Meditation

*Be receptive to the Spirit of God as worship begins  
with Music for Meditation*

#### Prelude and Lighting of the Christ Candle

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Passing the Peace

#### \*Call to Worship: Unison

*God, we gather here today joining with our sisters and brothers  
to worship you and to give thanks for the never-ending journey  
we take towards becoming family. With your guidance, support and  
love we can cross those boundaries that divide us, and reclaim  
the relationship we desire with you and with each other.*

*We are one family in your eyes; help us to see in each other  
the family you see in us. Amen.*

#### \*Hymn: Christ is our cornerstone #43

#### \*Invocation

**First Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:4-10, from *The Message*

#### Songs of Praise:

Children's story David Hovde

### Responsive Reading

#### Thoughts on the theme of family

One: Families are defined in different cultural contexts.  
What is family? Who is family?

**All:** *There are different families, merging families,  
adopting families, painful families, loving  
and nurturing families. Families that are torn apart  
by violence, addiction, society, war, and religion.  
Lord, there are families brought together by you  
in love, blood, emotions, and commitment.*

One: We have family lore, family ties, and family trees.

**All:** *We are one family yet many families.  
We are different but the same.  
God brings us together as family  
in whatever form we take;  
bad, good, broken or whole.  
For God sent us the most precious gift,  
the gift of the Son, to unite the family of humankind.*

### Praying

“For this we rejoice...”

“For this we pray...”

Hymn Call to Prayer Spirit of the living God #349

Prayer for all God's children

### Proclaiming--Pastor

**Scripture:** Luke 8: 19-21; Ephesians 2: 19-22

**Message:** Being Family: Growing in God's Love

**Hymn:** Bring many names #1088 (HS)

### Offering

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Flora Williams

\*Offertory Response: Grant us, Lord, the grace #388

\*Prayer of Dedication: Unison #750

### Sending—Pastor

\*Hymn: Help us to help each other #362

\*Benediction

\*Sending Christ's light out into the world

\*Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

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Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship and  
refreshment downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.