

Glebe-St. James United Church

Mothering Sunday

May 10, 2026

Gathered by God

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

“Meditation on a Folk Song”

O WALY WALY

“Refection”

Welcome

Kayla Cseh

My name is Kayla Cseh and I am Children’s Church Minister here at Glebe-St. James.

We’re so glad you’re here today. Whether you’re a first-time guest or a longtime member, whether you are joining us in person or online, we hope you feel at home. This is a place of faith, love, and community. Glebe-St. James is an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities feel loved and supported. Thank you for being here.

This Sunday is Christian Family Sunday – the United Church’s celebration of an inclusive Mother’s Day – a Sunday meant to celebrate those in our lives who love us and care for us. Some of those people may be our biological mothers, or other parents, or adult mentors. I think those who are mothering varies from person to person. Yet all know who those people are in our lives.

It is our hope that each of you will find a place to feed your spirit in this mothering worship service.

Announcements

Great Glebe Garage Sale

Dudleigh Coyle is looking for another 4 to 5 volunteers to help out at the Great Glebe Garage Sale. Not only do we need a few more for the Glebe-St. James table, we also require some for the Glebe- St. James Bathrooms!

Queer Space is open at Glebe-St. James next Saturday (May 16th). 6 pm in the Lounge

The Women's Intergenerational Group meets next week (May 17th) following the morning service and the Labyrinth will be open from 3 – 5 pm.

And now, let us listen to our land acknowledgement.

Land Acknowledgement

Wendy Bergeron

Each Sunday, prior to our worship service, we formally recognize that all spaces in which we gather—whether for worship, work, or recreation—are situated on unceded and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples. The practice of delivering a land acknowledgement serves as an invitation to deepen our knowledge of Indigenous cultures and worldviews.

Today I want to share information about Moose Hide Campaign Day, which takes place on May 14th this year.

The campaign's central symbol is the moose hide pin—a small square of moose hide representing a stand against domestic and gender-based violence, particularly towards Indigenous women and children in Canada. Sadly, half of Canadian women have experienced physical or sexual violence since age 16, and Indigenous women face spousal violence at three times the rate of non-Indigenous women.

Co-founders Raven Lacerte and her Dad, Paul, began the campaign in 2011 during a moose hunt along British Columbia's Highway of Tears, a site marked by many cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women.

The moose hide pin, viewed as land medicine, is given to Canadians who want to help make the country safer for all women, children, and those across the gender spectrum. Moose were chosen for their deep connection to land and culture. If you haven't yet, please pick up a moose hide pin at the sanctuary entrance—wear it to show your commitment to stand against gender-based and domestic violence and your solidarity with survivors.

**We light this candle for hope.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so hope can find a way, so hope can find a way.**

Call to Worship

Creator, parent of the human family,
we gather to worship you.
In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,
we gather to worship you.
Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,
**we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/our story,
in thoughts and reflections.**
Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.
We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as
neighbours and friends.
We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our
fragilities and strengths.

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.
Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this
time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives
ready to engage fully with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

Hymn Let Us Build A House

MV 1

- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Sign of Peace

Family of faith, God's grace is good news.
God's grace is worth celebrating!
So in the spirit of joy and abundant gratitude,
we are going to celebrate this mercy by
passing the peace with our neighbours.

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

**Send your peace on your world, God,
you, the creator of peace.
Our hearts fill with peace, God,
You are the source of healing peace.**

Listening for Wisdom

Theme Conversation I'm Not Alone!



“Hi friends! Today is Mother’s Day!
Can you say, *Happy Mother’s Day!?*”
(Repeat together)



“Today we remember people who love us and take care of us—like moms and so many others!”

“In the Bible, in **Gospel of John**, Jesus says:
'I will not leave you alone.'
Let’s say: *I’m not alone!*”
(Repeat)

[Simple Rhythm Activity]

“Let’s clap a pattern together! Ready?”

  (clap clap) — “God loves me!”

  (clap clap) — “I’m not alone!”

Repeat 2–3 times, getting a little louder or softer for fun.

“Now add a hug!”

  — “God loves me!”

(Hug self) — “I’m not alone!”

“People who love us give us hugs...
and God is always with us too—like an invisible hug!”

**“Dear God,
Thank you for love,
Thank you for hugs,
Help us remember,
We’re not alone.
Amen.”**

Hymn Little by Little (*Verses 1 and 5*)

TLUS 134

**Little by little by little.
Little by little by little.
Little by little by little I know,
The tiniest seed will grow.**

**Habits of peace and justice.
Habits of peace and justice,
Habits of peace and justice:
Tools to change our world.
The tiniest seed will grow.**

Prayer for Wisdom

O God of story, in the beginning you created humankind.
The Bible contains your story of love
and encouragement and challenge,
to your creation, to your children, and to us.
Today, may our hearts and minds be open to hear what your Spirit is saying to us.
We pray. Amen

Gospel John 14:15-21

Donna-Fay Mailhot

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day

you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

This is wisdom from the gospel of John.

Celebration of Piano

Robert Palmai

The inscription on the new plaque reads as follows:

**"With gratitude and joy,
This grand piano has been given in love by Robert Pálmai.
Dedicated to the ministry of music at Glebe-St. James in 2012.
In memory of Edith Pálmai,
Mother of Robert.
May its music bring comfort, inspiration and joy
for generations to come."**

Gift of Music

Safe in your Arms
Julia Barry (soprano)
Robert Palmai (piano)

Mark Hayes

Reflection Not Left Alone

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

On this Mother's Day, we come with many different feelings.

Some come with joy and gratitude, thinking of mothers who nurtured and loved us.

Some come with grief, missing mothers who are no longer with us.

Some carry complicated or painful relationships.

Some have longed to be mothers and could not be.

Some have been mothers in ways that don't fit easy categories.

So before anything else, let's name this truth gently and clearly:

Mother's Day is not simple.

But love—real love—is still something we all need.

And that's where Jesus meets us today.

In John 14, Jesus is speaking to his disciples just before he leaves them.
They are anxious. They sense something is ending.
They are worried they will be alone.

And Jesus says something remarkable:

“I will not leave you orphaned.”

Other translations say, *“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.”*

In other words:

You will not be abandoned.

You will not be left without care.

You will not be left without presence.

That promise sits right at the heart of this passage—and right at the heart of today.

Because if there is one thing Mother’s Day reminds us, it is this:

Every human being needs to be mothered by someone.

Now when we say “mothered,” we’re not just talking about biology.

We’re talking about something deeper:

To be mothered is to be **held in care**,

to be **known and remembered**,

to be **guided and protected**,

to be **loved in a way that helps us grow into ourselves.**

Some of us received that from our mothers.

Some received it from grandmothers, aunts, teachers, neighbours, friends, or members of the church.

And some of us... are still longing for it.

Jesus knows that longing.

That’s why he speaks into it so directly:

“I will not leave you orphaned.”

He doesn’t say, “You’ll be fine on your own.”

He doesn’t say, “Toughen up.”

He doesn’t say, “Figure it out.”

Instead, he promises presence.

And then he names how that presence will come.

He says, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.”

The word “Advocate” can also be translated as Comforter, Helper, Companion.

It is the presence of the Spirit—God with us, God alongside us.

And if you listen closely, the role of the Spirit sounds... deeply maternal.

The Spirit comforts.

The Spirit stays close.

The Spirit teaches.

The Spirit reminds us who we are.

The Spirit refuses to give up on us.

This is not distant, abstract care.

This is intimate, attentive, nurturing presence.

It is the kind of presence that says:

“You matter.”

“You are not alone.”

“You are still held.”

There’s a story told about a little child who woke up in the night during a thunderstorm.

Afraid, they called out, “Mom! I’m scared!”

From the other room, the mother called back, “It’s okay. God is with you.”

The child paused, then said, “I know God is with me... but I need someone with skin on.”

That’s what it means to be mothered.

Not just ideas.
Not just reassurance from a distance.
But presence. Nearness. Warmth.

And here's the good news of the gospel:
God knows that too.
So God doesn't stay distant.

In Jesus, God comes close—*with skin on*.
And in the Spirit, God remains close—*with us still*.

Jesus goes on to say, "Because I live, you also will live."
This is not just about survival.
It's about a life that is sustained by love.
A life rooted in relationship.
A life that cannot be cut off from God's care.

And then he adds something that ties it all together:

"They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me... and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

In other words, love is not just something we receive—it's something we live.

And this is where Mother's Day turns gently toward us.

Because yes, we all need to be mothered.
But we are also called, in different ways, to **become people who mother others**.

Not in the sense of replacing mothers,
but in the sense of embodying that same kind of care.

To notice someone who is struggling.
To offer patience instead of judgment.
To listen when someone feels unheard.
To encourage when someone feels small.
To stay when it would be easier to walk away.

These are deeply spiritual acts.

They are how the love of Christ becomes visible in the world.

There are people in this very community who are quietly doing this every day.

Someone who checks in on a neighbour.

Someone who teaches a child.

Someone who sits with a grieving friend.

Someone who shows up, again and again, with kindness.

That is holy work.

That is the Spirit at work.

That is what it looks like when no one is left orphaned.

And maybe today, you are someone who feels a bit like that child in the storm.

Maybe you're thinking,

"I know God is with me... but I still feel alone."

If that's you, hear this promise again:

"I will not leave you orphaned."

Not in your grief.

Not in your uncertainty.

Not in your loneliness.

Not in your questions.

You are not forgotten.

You are not abandoned.

You are not alone.

God's presence is still reaching toward you—

sometimes in ways you expect,

and sometimes through the people sitting right beside you.

So on this Mother's Day, we give thanks:

For those who have mothered us well.
For those who have tried, even imperfectly.
For those who continue to show us what love looks like.

And we remember this deeper truth:

God's love surrounds us,
holds us,
guides us,
and stays with us.

A love that does not leave us orphaned.

A love that calls us into life.

A love that we are invited to share.
Amen.

Responding in Thanksgiving

Hymn Who Is My Mother

MV 178

- 1. Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human de-railings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.**

**4. Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!**

Invitation to Give

To be a community that supports flourishing life for all people, we must create new ways of being together that honour and celebrate the neuro-diverse gifts that each of us bring. We must create new economies that do not attempt to quantify, judge or label what we bring into the community, but that gives thanks for generous hearts willing to share. The ushers may now come forward to collect tithes and offerings. Thank you

Offering Music

“Adagio from Sonata in B flat major”

W.A. Mozart, K 570

Offering Hymn What Can I do?

MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. We pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People Send Your Peace on Our World

TLUS 135

**Send your peace on your world, God,
you, the creator of peace.
Our hearts fill with peace, God,
You are the source of healing peace.**

Prayer of Jesus

**Our Mother and 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, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sent by the Spirit

Hymn **Would You Bless Our Homes and Families**

VU 556

- 1 Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.**

- 2 When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.**

- 3 From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.**
- 4 Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.**

Sending Forth

In baptism you name us your beloved children, kin to one another.
As we go from this place, may we know your love that found expression in the
most vulnerable of human form: guide us, sustain us, and empower us to love.

Sung Amen

VU 974

Music to Send Us Forth

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Piano-organ duet by Robert Palma and Paul Grose

End of Worship | Beginning of Service

**Welcome to Glebe-St. James United Church.
Thank you for joining with us for our morning worship.**

This week's Music

The music for gathering this morning includes a piano piece, "Meditation on a Folk Song," arranged by Joseph M. Martin, and an organ piece, "Reflection," by Douglas E. Wagner, inspired by Psalm 72:3: "The mountains shall bring peace to the people."

This morning we are celebrating our beautiful Steinway piano. A dedication plaque was recently added to commemorate the gift of the instrument to the congregation. The piano originally belonged to Robert Pálmai's mother. The plaque inscription is found in this morning's PowerPoint slides.

The organ-piano duet used for the postlude is an arrangement by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard of the hymn tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN. This tune is one of Paul's favourites, found in VU#217, with words by St. Francis of Assisi from 1225 and a tune that first appeared without attribution in a 1623 Jesuit hymnbook from Cologne, Germany.

Musical Acknowledgements

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Prayers *courtesy of Jackie Harper, retired minister*

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If your photo, included in the directory, was taken by Universal, then we have a complimentary copy of the Photo directory for you. If you would like to purchase a copy of the directory – the cost is \$ 20. Please speak with Jennifer in the Church office or check with Susan Palmai or Barb Coyle.

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