

Worship Service: FAMILY

Welcome: Welcome! It's so good to be together to celebrate faith and community today. My name is ____ and I'll be leading our worship time today. Today we'll be looking at the idea and value of **family**.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

Opening Prayer: Great and loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and especially forgiving us. Enable us to enter your presence joyfully and reverently, and let us depart today with the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Fill us, O God, with the peace which passes understanding. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Doxology, p. 1

Statement of Faith: Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23 together:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymns:

For the Beauty of the Earth, p. 2

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, p. 3

Amazing Grace, p. 4

First reading: Proverbs 6: 20-23

My son, keep your father's commandment,
and forsake not your mother's teaching.

²¹ Bind them on your heart always;
tie them around your neck.

²² When you walk, they will lead you;
when you lie down, they will watch over you;
and when you awake, they will talk with you.

²³ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 5

Jesus Loves Me, p. 6

Second reading: Galatians 4: 107

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Softy and Tenderly, p. 7

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, p. 8

Interactive Homily: Let's talk more about family.

- What kind of family do you have? Who is in it?
 - "Natural" family; extended family; family of friends; church family; the family of mankind all around the world

- How well do families get along? Does everyone always agree? What kinds of things cause problems in families?
 - Disagreements over discipline, money, possessions, opinions, politics, habits, traditions, perceived favoritism, holding grudges
- What kinds of things help you forgive family members, no matter what?
 - “Blood is thicker than water”; knowing that you love them and they love you; patience with one another; bigger picture, that we are all in the same boat; realizing that possessions (and most everything else) will all pass away someday
- How are we all related, even more than by blood?
 - By life itself; God’s spirit in us; created in the image of God, “male and female he created them.” We are all part of the family of humankind, God’s family.
- How do we view God as our Father? What are some names for “father”?
 - Paul’s passage in Romans talks about calling God “Abba,” which literally means “Daddy” – a term of endearment and intimacy.

Let’s silently thank God for the gift of family and for being our good Father.

(Silent Prayer) ... Now let us say the Lord’s prayer together:

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, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Hymns:

This is My Father’s World, p. 9

It is Well with My Soul, p. 10

Standing on the Promises, p. 11

Third Reading: From “Oneness,” by Jeffrey Moses

This book talks about shared principles in religions around the world. On the topic of family, the author writes: “Since we are all children of God, ... we are related in a very fundamental way. Why, then, should we harm one another?” Here are what major religions say about being part of God’s family of humankind:

“God hath made of one blood all nations of men.” –Christianity

“Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?” –Judaism

“All creatures are the family of God; and he is the most beloved of God who does most good to His family.” –Islam

“God is the Father, Earth the Mother. With all things and in all things, we are relatives.” –Sioux Native American

Hymns:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, p. 12

Shall We Gather at the River, p. 13

Fourth Reading: Lighthearted Stories about Family 😊

A married couple was celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. At the party everybody wanted to know how they managed to stay married so long in this day and age. The husband responded, "When we were first married we came to an agreement. I would make all the major decisions and my wife would make all the minor decisions. And in 60 years of marriage we have never needed to make a major decision." ¹

A: I have the perfect son.

B: Does he smoke?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: Does he drink whiskey?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: Does he ever come home late?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he?

A: He will be six months old next Wednesday.²

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" His father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, and then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

¹ <http://www.grandparents.com/food-and-leisure/entertainment-and-books/family-jokes>

² <http://www.laughfactory.com/jokes/family-jokes>

The child then went to his mother and asked her the same question: "Mommy, how were people born?" She told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."³

Families are like fudge: mostly sweet with a few nuts.⁴

Jim: I like your curly hair!

Elisa: Thank you! I have my mother's hair.

Elinor: What is she going to do without it?⁵

Hymns:

Blest Be the Tie that Binds, p. 14

I Need Thee Every Hour, p. 15

Closing Blessing: (Strike bell as you say the word "Lord")

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Doxology, p. 23

Romans 8: 14-17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

³ <http://www.laughfactory.com/jokes/family-jokes>

⁴ <http://www.grandparents.com/food-and-leisure/entertainment-and-books/family-jokes>

⁵ This really happened 😊

1 Corinthians 12: 12-20, 26

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ... ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.