

## Wesley United Church

*Rev. Lennox Scarlett, Minister  
George Cleland, Music Director  
Avery Turner, Youth Co-ordinator*

**THEME:** Mothers / The Strength Of A Woman

### RUNNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - Violin Medley George Cleland

WELCOME Wendy Reed

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Kathy Young

Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting us in her arms:

*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you... (Isaiah 66:13)*

**Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15)*

**Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

*But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. (Psalm 131: 2)*

**Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. (Matthew 23:37)*

**Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

*...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)*

**Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.

**Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases.

**This is our God.**

Let's worship together!

OPENING HYMN: *Would You Bless Our Homes & Families*  
(VU 556)

PRAYER Kathy Young

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Avery Turner

BIBLE READING - 2 Timothy 1 - 1-7 Sue Napper

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

CHOIR MINISTRY - *You Raise Me Up* The Wesley Choir

REFLECTION Mary Cools

HYMN - *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* (VU 320)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION Shelley Gault

THE LORD'S PRAYER Shelley Gault

RECEIVING & BLESSING OF OFFERING Wendy Reed

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD NEWS

HYMN - *Dear Mother God* (VU 270)

BENEDICTION - *Go Now in Peace*

POSTLUDE - *Grow Old With Me* George Cleland

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Tuesday, May 14** — 10 a.m. to noon - Knitting @ Church in the Library

**Tuesday, May 14** — 7 p.m. Zoom Strategic Planning Meeting for Church Council members

**Wednesday May 15** — 7 p.m. Bible study in the parlour

**Saturday, May 18** — 8 a.m. to noon - Pelham Garden Club Plant & Bake Sale at Fonthill United Church. Cash only.

**Saturday, May 18** - 8:00 a.m. to Noon - Annual Yard Sale at Central United Church, Port Colborne

**Monday, May 20** — Victoria Day - Church closed

**Saturday, May 25** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.- Book sale at Central United Church, Port Colborne