

**Visions United Spirit Gathering  
Christian Family Sunday - May 12, 2024**

***Naming Valiant Women***

\* *Stand as able*

**Our Community Gathers**

**Gathering Music/Prelude**

**Welcome**

*God's Doors Are Open to All!*

*Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts*  
Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all  
races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,  
sexual orientations and gender identities to worship

**Acknowledgement of Land**

**One:** We remember with gratitude  
that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,  
the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All:** **May we live with respect on this land,  
and in peace and friendship with its people.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Sharing the Peace & Kindling a Flame for Peace**

**One:** Peace of Christ Be With You

**All:** **And Also With You**

**Sharing of WOW Moments**

**\*Song** VU# 556 (vs 1,3,4) Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

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**Invitation to Gather**

**One:** As we continue to share in this Easter season, may we be helped to say

**All:** **yes to life,  
yes to a new beginning,  
yes to the presence that gives us courage  
for whatever is ahead of us.**

**Gathering Prayer**

**Living God, we offer thanks and praise  
for your presence in our midst,  
and for this opportunity to come together  
to celebrate our common hope.  
Be the creativity that sustains us  
in these changing and challenging times.  
May it be so.**

## We Listen for Wisdom

### Theme Conversation for All Ages or Children's Time

**Song** (*standing or seated*) MV#135 (Chorus, vs 1&2 , Chorus, vs 3&4, Chorus)

Called By Earth and Sky

Words&Music: Pat Mayberry©2005;

French trans David Fines©2006; Arr. Margaret Stubbington©2005.

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(*Children's Programming Begins*)

### Wisdom Reading(s)

Proverbs 31:10-31 (*Adapted and paraphrased*)

Glenna Lightfoot

Acts 16:6-15

The Conversion of Lydia

### Special Music

Thy Word

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### Reflection:

On Valiant Women

### Litany From International Women's Day

**One:** We enter into faith in God,

**All: Female and male alike, for we are all together in Jesus Christ.**

**One:** Yet more than this, as we prepare to welcome Jesus,  
in the way that we welcome the gift of flowers to our door,  
Jesus is already preparing to welcome us,  
as he welcomed the Samaritan women at the well.

**All: We are welcomed, female and male alike, for we are all together in Jesus Christ.**

**One:** In the entire world;  
in its creation, width and breadth is God's grace,  
ready to be celebrated.  
In shouting and praising, even  
when we struggle with our gender,  
when injustice is around,  
when we least want or expect it,  
God's grace is with us.

**All: Female and male alike, God's grace encompasses us all.**

**One:** Christ arrives at the right moment  
to challenge injustice,  
to challenge the treatment of women in our community,  
to challenge our structures and actions

**All: Yet in our weakness, whether male or female, Christ still died.**

**One:** While we question, and do not understand all that is God.  
While we question the actions of our community,  
and the treatment of those we love,  
Christ struggles with us, in the power of God.

**All: Bring us to a time, when as women and as men,  
we celebrate the warmth of God together.  
Where we are aware of our weakness and strengths,  
as we honour and praise the fullness of God.**

## **We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude**

**Song** (*standing or seated*) VU #624 Give to Us Laughter (vs. 1,2,4)

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**Our Community at Prayer** (& Lord's Prayer *optional*)

**“Heavenly Mother, heavenly Father,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days—  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One.”** (“The Lord’s Prayer,” version by Parker Palmer)

**Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts** (*offering brought forward*)

**Sung Dedication MV#188 I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus**

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**Outreach Moment – Hospice SENB**

Peter Lightfoot

**The Work of the Congregation – Announcements**

## **We Go Forth to Be a Blessing**

\* **Song** (*standing*) MV #209 Go, Make a Difference (vs. 1,3) Words&Music: Steve Angrisano,  
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**Changing of the Light and Blessing**

**Postlude Music for the Journey**

***Thank You for Joining Us!  
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.***

**Worship Leader:**  
Rev. Catherine Gaw