

51532

Ministers
Rev. Art Griffin
Rev. Jack Shaver

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
32C East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C. V6A 1P4

Organist
Harry Stothers

10:30 A. M.

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1977

7:00 P. M.

"COME IN TO WORSHIP"

The Praise of God
The Call to Worship
Hymn: 19 (The Hymnary) "Now thank we all our God"
Prayer of Invocation
Unison Reading: Psalm 23 (698, The Hymnary)
The Gloria
The Word of God
The Reading from Scripture: Ephesians 2: 4-22
Matthew 12: 46-50
Prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Hymn: 503 (The Hymnary) "Pass me not,"
Sermon: "CAN ANYTHING MAKE US A FAMILY?"
Rev. Jack Shaver

Our Response to God's Word

Prayer
Hymn: 490 (The Hymnary) "I am Thine, O Lord;"
The Offering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary, Doxology
Announcements: The Life and Work of The Church
Hymn: 356 (The Hymnary) "Take my life,"
The Benediction and Choral Amen
Organ Chimes and Postlude

"GO OUT TO SERVE"

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WELCOME - We extend a sincere welcome to all who are visiting with us today. An informal Coffee Hour will be held immediately after both Services, and all are invited.
UPPER ROOMS for May and June are available in the Literature Racks in the Narthex. Your 20¢ assists us with the cost.

EVENING BROADCAST on CKWX
(Heard at 8:00 p. m.)

Organ Prelude
The Call to Worship
Hymn: 241 (330) Tune: Hyfrydol
"Love divine, all loves excelling"
Prayer of Invocation
Selection: "True And Living Way"
The Reading from Scripture: Genesis 42: 1 - 20
Selection: "One By One, People Come Sing Together"
Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Sung)
Selection: "Go Ye Into All The World"
Sermon: "ALTERNATE FAMILIES"
Rev. Art Griffin
Prayer
Hymn: 236 "Eternal God, whose power upholds"
The Benediction and Choral Amen
Organ Chimes and Voluntary

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The Offering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary, Doxology
Announcements: The Life and Work of The Church
Hymn: 284 (270 Vs. 1,4,3,2,7)
"Just as I am,"
Blessing and Organ Postlude

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WE WELCOME to our Service tonight the members of the "Sing Out Chorale", a youth group from Canadian Memorial United Church. The "Sing Out Chorale" singers, accompanied by pianist Melanie Yip, are providing the special music on this evening's Broadcast Service.

(S153c)

Sunday May 8 1977

(1)

First United Church - 10:30 AM

Can Anything Make us a Family

When I was a student minister

arrive for the First Sunday in May

at some small prairie village - something not even a village

There was always Mothers' Day

However that first Sunday went

The second Sunday in May always brought
a Full house

It became irrelevant who started it

Caught on

Church Festival even for Anglicans - ignored it
some other Sunday on the Calendar

United Church affirmed it

Christian Family Sunday

Since become a little clergy as a Festival

Family in trouble - dislocation of values

- Family Conference - Crisis

Increasing time of this - as well as THAT

Family is in trouble

Just as soon not celebrate it.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

NO kids

Boston Homes - area full of broken homes

Single Parents

Single Parents

No Family at all

Cost about for a Word to our Situation

Bible - FAMILY - metaphor for something good
on form Good News takes in announcing God's
relationship to us

Worship of childbearing - Blessed state

Childlessness - non blessed state

focus the Church subjected to Parents

Bible is very free of sentimental notions about the Family
Consistently realistic,

Stream of Stories - Troubled Families

First Parents -

Noah

Patriarch - First families of the People of God

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Kings

Prophets

Gospel Writers record the story of our Lord's Mother
without sentimentality

Even though there is enough here for the Church
to exalt her position - often to the point
of being accused of Maryolatry

She is still portrayed as someone troubled
in her motherhood -

Boys hood behavior - strange troubles

Stood & wept - Family sought her

in vain -

"Who is my Brother & my Mother?" -

What's the good word through all this weeping
We have lots of the weeping

Any Good word to us?

Bible picture of the Family has lots of weeping

What can Bless us in the MIDST of our lives
Minds about FAMILY?

God has a gift for us

Whom we who were once

or one

aliens

strangers

Foreigners

Transients

are made members of the Household of God

His Forgiveness
 His Acceptance of us
 His bearing of us
 His Seeking of us

} made us all one
 } gives us to each other

Not our doing — gift of God.

You can't believe that as an act of your own will.

You can catch yourself at it -

The trick is to recognize it —
 recognize the broken ways it is
 already true for us

We Sometimes speak of the First Church Family
 possibly we are being sentimental —
 possible that God has given us to each other
 in this congregation

and the Broken moments of feeling it are a recognition of God's work

The Writer of Ephesians seems to be giving
 the answer to the question —
 "Can anything make us a Family?"

→ God already has made us a Family

the promise is that he will more & more
 or again & again
 give us eyes to see it.