WHAT IS FAMILY?

Litany of Confession and Commitment

Reader 1:   Families hurt and families take
All:    Families can also love and give.
Reader 2:   Families abandon and families injure
All:    Families can also nurture and heal.
Reader 3:   Families betray and families give up
All:    Families can also commit for life.
Reader 4:   Families break-up and move apart
All:    Families can also mend and grow.
Reader 5:   Families judge and families insult
All:    Families can also accept and forgive.
Reader 5:   Will you help me know forgiveness?
Reader 4:   Can you help me mend and grow?
Reader 3:   Will you teach me about commitment?
Reader 2:   Can you help me nurture and heal?
Reader 1:   Will you teach me love and service?
All:    All through Christ who makes things new.

Sermon Outline/Discussion Questions to address:

- How do we know we are part of our family?
- How do we show our family members they are part of us?
- How do we make room for a new vision of family?
- What is our dream for our family?
- How do we celebrate family in the midst of brokeness and pain?
- How do we respond to God’s call to “love one another as I have loved you?”
- How does John’s vision of family with God among mortals,
including in our home, wiping away tears and comforting our pain give us hope for our family?

➢ How does being part of our church family model how to be part of our biological family and vice versa?

**Family Blessing** As you hear your role described, please stand in body or spirit:

Blessings to parents, grandparents, and cousins, uncles and aunts, and daughters and sons, nephews and nieces and partners and friends. Sisters and brothers through blood or through Christ, bonded together in service and love. Blessings to you who care for the young, up in the night with sickness and tears. Blessings to you who work every day, building a home for God’s love to be. Blessings to you who break from the mold, challenging, questioning, blazing the trail. Blessings to you who nurture and keep the dates of our lives, our births and deaths. Blessings to you who lives God’s commandment “to love one another just as I have loved you.”

**Hymns**

“Lord of the home” 405
“Beyond a dying sun” 323
“New Earth, Heaven New” 299
“Come we that love the Lord” 14
“This is the day of new beginnings” 640
“Go my children” 433