# Kin to One Another Worship Resources for Christian Family Sunday

## Hymn Suggestions

### Voices United

87 I Am the Light of the World (esp. v. 2–4)

222 Come, Let Us Sing

226 For the Beauty of the Earth

268 Bring Many Names

556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

644 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

### More Voices

1 Let Us Build a House

27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

79 Spirit, Open My Heart

89 Love Is the Touch

126 Are You a Shepherd

178 Who Is My Mother

## Call to Worship

Creator, parent of the human family,

**we gather to worship you.**

In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,

**we gather to worship you.**

Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,

**we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/our story,   
in thoughts and reflections.**

**Let us worship God.**

## Gathering Prayer

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.

We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends.

We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths.

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.

Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship

so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully

with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

## Prayer of Confession

O God, you know how hard it is to live in relationships, and yet you call us to do so. At times it is hard to be fully present to our siblings and others in our nuclear family and within this Christian family. Our patience may be short, we sometimes don’t really listen, we may be tired, or angry, or hungry, or lonely, or … whatever it is that keeps us from loving and caring for one another, help us to know that you are always with us, loving us so that we may love others. (*time of silence to offer personal thoughts and concern*s)

## Promise of Forgiveness

Through all the joys and all the struggles of living in relationship,

one truth is offered to each and every one of us:

God has loved us, is loving us and will always love us.

Thanks be to God for this unending gift of love.

## Prayer of Illumination

O God of story, in the beginning you created humankind.

The Bible contains your story of love and encouragement and challenge,

to your creation, to your children, and to us.

Today, may our hearts and minds be open to hear what your Spirit is saying to us.

We pray. Amen.

(Or sing *More Voices* 21, “Open Our Hearts”)

## Invitation to the Offering

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging.

In response to God’s blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

## Prayer after the Offering

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge.

We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships

with one another and with your whole creation.

Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people.

We pray. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

Our faith blesses us with stories of others who have sought to live in life-giving relationships. As we remember these siblings in faith, remind us of your guidance and presence with us. Let us pray—

God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; God of Mary, Martha, and Lazurus; God of siblings who cared for one another, offered support and challenge, celebrated together, worked together, argued together, and grieved together. We are thankful for their witness. As they have done may we also seek to live in life-giving relationships with those we would name as siblings.

God of Eli, Hannah, and Samuel, cross-generational colleagues, mentors, and trusted leaders in faith, remind us of the opportunities we have to nurture and care, mentor and discern with one another in this faith community. May we embrace the trust that is offered and shared with respect, care, and humility.

God of Ruth and Naomi, who embraced each other despite differences of race and cultural traditions and chose to be family for one another. For all who choose to be family, may your love and hope be sustained day by day.

God of Simon and Andrew and James and John, who left the familiar to build new community with Jesus and his followers. Though faithful, they had moments of doubt, of fear, of denial. In our moments of doubt, fear, and denial, may we remember to trust and to take one step at a time.

God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael; God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac; God of the complicated, and the jealous, and the broken, remind us that this too is real and that you walk with us through these troubling times.

God of Mary and John, called to relationships that stretch beyond blood, to care for one another. You invite us too to reach out in welcome, support, and care for one another.

God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us.

And we continue in prayer together, sharing in a paraphrase of the prayer Jesus taught the disciples ….

## The Lord’s Prayer

*(On special Sundays I would often offer a different version of the Lord’s Prayer. On Christian Family Sunday, I often have used A Paraphrase found on page 916 of* Voices United*.)*

## Commissioning and Benediction

In baptism you name us your beloved children, kin to one another.

As we go from this place,

May we know your love that found expression in the most vulnerable of human form:

guide us, sustain us, and empower us to love.

## Time with Children

*Talk with children about the concept of “kin”—relatives, siblings, parents. What about kindred spirits?*

*God/Jesus invites us into relationship with one another, to know one another as siblings, to care for one another.*

*In baptism we have been welcomed into this worldwide Christian family. And each new child or adult baptized is welcomed into this same family.*

*Today we celebrate being part of that family, being kin to one another, being called to the task of “kin-dom” building and sharing.*

*—Jackie Harper is a recently retired minister.   
She is enjoying quilting, swimming, and writing, and looking forward to gardening.*