



**Parish Group**

**Celebrating the gift of family**

**Leader**      Encircle us, God.  
Encircle our lives  
with your loving embrace  
and let us rest in you.

**Reader 1**

*John 19:25-27*

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**All**            Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.

**Reader 2**    Each one of us is part of a family,  
a child created by God, in God's own image and likeness.

**All**            Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.

**Reader 3**    Some of us were born in the last few years,  
some of us have been around for a while,  
some of us have been around even longer still.  
Each of us created by God and part of the family of God

**All**            Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.

**Reader 4** Each of us is a sister or a father,  
a cousin or a daughter,  
an aunt or a nephew,  
a grandmother, a great-grandson.  
Each of us created by God and part of the family of humanity.

**All** Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.

**Reader 5** Jesus created a family,  
a family of people who believed in his message.  
He said his family were those who heard his word  
and lived it out in their lives.  
So each of us is called to be part of Jesus' family.

**All** Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.

**Reader 6** Each person you see is created by God,  
in God's own image and likeness.  
Whether we are old or young,  
are single or married,  
in love or in pain,  
each of us is created by God and part of the family of God.

**All** Let's look with fresh eyes - at home, in our area, at church.  
Thank you, God, for the people you have placed in our family and our community.

**Leader** Gathered in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we pray as he himself taught us, *Our Father....*

**Leader** Transform us, Lord,  
transform us into disciples  
eager to respond to your call  
and willing to welcome and include all people.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen