

Living Faith

United Methodist Church

I am
the
vine;
you
are
the
branches.
John 15:5

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A Celebration of Christian Worship

May 2, 2021 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

Svetlana Morse, Music Director ~ Lorna Wade, Liturgist

Prelude: Grateful

Svetlana Morse

Announcements, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Call to Worship

L: Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

P: We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.

L: Come to love one another, for love is of God.

P: We have come to the household of love, for God is love.

L: Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

P: We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.

L: Come! All are welcome here.

*Hymn: #2236 Gather Us In

1/ Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame; call to us know, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of your name.

2/ We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in — the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3/ Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us a drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4/ Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Opening Prayer

Divine Vinegrower, the soil of your love nurtures the roots of our lives each and every day. As we consecrate ourselves into your loving care, plant us in the soil of your love, that we may abide in Christ, our true vine, and bear the fruit of your love and grace. Give us rain in seasons of doubt and nourish our growth, that our harvest of love may bless the world. In your bountiful name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Lorna Wade

Special Music: Redeemer

Svetlana Morse

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Lorna Wade

Sermon: Abiding in Our Vine

Rev. Bob Jon

Hymn of Response: #620 One Bread, One Body

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1/ Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more

Refrain:

2/ Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Refrain:

3/ Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

Refrain:

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Confession

Source of love and life, your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but we can't seem to figure out how. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know you. Show how to abide in your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies your name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

When we abide in Christ, we abide in the vine of love and grace. Abide in the vine, and receive mercy beyond measure.

Passing the Peace

Sharing Our Gifts and Tithes

(Please use the offering box place on the table at the entrance door. For online giving, please visit <https://livingfaithumc.net/online-giving/> or download tithe.ly on your smartphone.)

***Doxology" #95 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bountiful God, you fill the poor with good things and cause the hungry to be satisfied. May these gifts be instruments of your grace and may our very lives be the means of spreading your blessings. Make these gifts be for the world a sign of your boundless love and your overflowing abundance. Amen.

Holy Communion *(Please see below)*

***Hymn: #703 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**

Refrain: **Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home; swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.**

V1/ I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home? A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*

V2/ If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home; tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*

V3/ I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, coming for to carry me home; but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*

V4/ The brightest day that I can say, coming for to carry me home; when Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home. *Refrain*

***Benediction**

Postlude: Glorify Thy Name

Svetlana Morse

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, & Prayer of Dedication written by B. J. Beu, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021. Copyright Copyright © B. J. Beu

Communion – The Great Thanksgiving II

Pastor – The Lord be with you

Congregation – And also with you.

Pastor – Lift up your hearts.

Congregation – We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation – It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor -- It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night to which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said; "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Congregation – Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.” By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is your, almighty Father, now and forever.

Congregation – Amen

Pastor: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord’s Prayer



***Birthdays & Anniversaries this week:** Monday: Emma Weaver; Tuesday: Georgia Wade; Wednesday: Chad Mauer, Cliff & Katie Morin’s anniversary

We invite our children to come back and join us for Sunday School starting next Sunday, May 9. We require our children to wear masks and keep the social distance.

