

Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Come to Christ, the true Vine, and bear much fruit.

All: We want to abide in the Vine, and to bear the fruit of Salvation.

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

All: We want to live in the household of love, for God is love.

One: Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives away fear.

All: We pledge ourselves to love one another, as God has loved us.

One: Let us worship together! All are welcome here.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: **VU# 226** “For The Beauty Of The Earth”

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Divine Creator, the soil of your love nurtures the roots of our lives each and every day. As we pledge ourselves to you, 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.

Epistle Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21

Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8

Hymn **VU# 670** “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

The Lord's Prayer

Good News Time

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 brothers and sisters, 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.

(A time of quiet reflection on the prayer we have just shared)

Assurance of Pardon

One: When we abide in Christ, we abide in the Vine of love and grace.

All: We abide in the Vine and receive mercy beyond measure. Amen.

Anthem: Sounds Like Reign – *“Nearer My God To Thee”*

Sermon: Grounded In The Faith

Hymn: **VU# 559** “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

The Offering

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.

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 580** “Faith Of Our Fathers”

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Simon Khorolskiy – *“Holy Is The Lord”*