



*"I am the Vine" by Mike Moyers, 2016.
<http://illuminationsbymike.blogspot.com>*

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz
Pam Kothrade, Musician
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

www.uccmke.org
www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchucc

On this fifth Sunday of Eastertide, we continue our sermon series Resurrection Every Day with Jesus' call to bear fruit. The image of Jesus as the sturdy vine is one that is helpful for the church and Christian believer alike. Branches cannot continue to grow and thrive within the Body of Christ unless they hold close to the teachings of Christ. Today the image of the sturdy vine that continues to thrive beyond all challenges that come against it can be a helpful one for the church. As lifeless branches are trimmed and fall away, those that adhere to the vine become stronger and in turn contribute to the health of the vine. We are the branches which cling to the vine of Christ. Let us clear the dead branches to prepare for new growth and to bear fruit!

Prelude

I Come With Joy

Cherwien

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

I Come with Joy

- 1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**
- 2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**
- 4. The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.**
- 5. Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

Call to Worship (Sung)

One: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Plant me, prune me, feed me, grow me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Opening Prayer

One: Cultivating God,

we come as your children to grow and learn,
because you are our divine vine grower.

God, we desire for you to abide within us,
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

UCC Worship Ways

As your branches, we ask you to nourish us
for continued growth.

May you transform our hearts and minds
as we hear your Word, sing your praises,
and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

**All: May you help us to bear good fruit
through the vine of Jesus Christ.
In Whose name we pray, Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

Old Testament

Psalm 22:25-31

The book of Psalms contains the prayers, hymns, and meditations of Israel. The end portion of Psalm 22 is a prayer for help which turns from "plea" to "praise." God has remained faithful to the psalmist despite their hardships. The psalmist calls upon the people to praise God for God's steadfastness. God is the one with dominion over all. Even the dead are part of God's congregation of praise.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

John's Gospel identifies Christ as the Messiah, sent by God, to deliver the people of Israel. In Jesus' teaching and preaching in John, he identifies himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, and the vine.

In this week's selection, Jesus says he is the vine and we, as his followers, are the branches. God is the eternal vine-grower, and through Christ we are called to grow and bear fruit in the world. One cannot bear fruit if one does not cling to the true vine of Christ, and branches that do not bear fruit are useless. In other words, we must live out our faith, otherwise, we are like useless dead branches that need to be pruned.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon

Resurrection Every Day: The Vine

Rev. Dan Stark

Response Song

In Christ There Is No East or West

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth; the chosen family God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.**
- 2. For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race; has reconciled us through his Son and met us all with grace.**
- 3. It is by grace we are assured that we belong to him: the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spirit's work within.**
- 4. So brothers, sisters, praise his name who died to set us free from sin, division, hate and shame, from spite and enmity!**
- 5. In Christ there is no east or west—he breaks all barriers down; by Christ redeemed, by Christ possessed, in Christ we live as one.**

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*

We pray for:

~Laurel D, who just broke her wrist and is recovering from surgery. She will be in a cast for several weeks.

~Dan V, who was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. He has an appointment with his oncologist on May 11th.

~ Mark P who is having a hip replacement surgery on Monday.

~Betty B who is healing from injuries from a recent fall. She has returned to her residence and is receiving 24-hour nursing care.

~Ken and Susie K. as Ken recovers from recent surgery. Prayers for healing.
~Katie, a young mom was hospitalized for septic shock. She is currently out of ICU. Prayers for her recovery. From Andy Oren.
~Dean M. as he recovers from surgery for a ruptured Achilles tendon.
~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 6 months.
~Ian, that continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal.
~Continued prayers for David Rothe, friend of John Helt who is rehabbing after a serious infection.
~Kim and her husband, friends of Mary Ann M. who is now back home and is still not able to eat (has a gastric feeding tube), very weak and unable to walk without assistance but very happy to be home. Her husband is assisting with all her care in addition to PT, OT and speech therapy.
~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a "routine" heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.
~Prayers for strength, understanding and healing for Jack and his family as the bone marrow transplant has been postponed. He will go through another round of induction chemo. Dick and Joan Gaeth
~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.
~Kathy, Ken's sister who was moved to hospice at a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.
~Susie K's Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.
~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.
~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe's medical issues.
~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.
~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.
~Continued prayers for Julene F's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.
~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

Community - From our outdoor prayer box.

~" Health in my body, mind & spirit".

~ "Please pray for me and my family. We have been very ill and very tired. We will overcome. I've been very sad. I wish you the best in all your endeavors. Xoxo"

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Call to Offering

Worship Ways

Today we are invited to become deeply attached, close, and loyal as branches who connect with Jesus Christ, our "vine." We are called to bear fruit with a spirit of love by helping each other, reaching out to each other, and encouraging each other in our daily faith pilgrimage. One way we can do this is through our giving to this community and its ministries in the world. Please give as you are able at the following link: www.uccmke.org/donate

Prayer of Dedication

One: Gracious God, today we offer you the fruits of our resources in celebration of all we have been given by you.

Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we are and all that we have and ask a special blessing on this bounty.

Giving God, may these gifts of the vine nourish and strengthen our community to grow spiritually and physically.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A-men.

Closing Song

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

[Refrain]

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread;

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. [Refrain]

2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt;

strong in faith, free of doubt, tell to all the joyful Gospel. [Refrain]

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

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Thanks

~ Thank you for all your prayers and good wishes! My surgery was a success and praises as my biopsy came back negative. Ken K.

Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Patti Roginski May 3

Colton Zvara May 5

Judy Faja May 6

Kathleen Schroeder May 6

Emma Bingheim May 7

Announcements

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!!! IN-PERSON CHURCH IS OPEN!!!

BEGINNING: JUNE 6, 2021

DI SOS donations needed

Please help by donating the following for our Friday night meal distribution:

*Prewrapped plastic knife, fork, and napkin (please tie or tape shut)

*Fruit Breakfast/granola Bars (any flavors)

Volunteers Needed

Friday night volunteers for SOS DI meal distribution at Christ Church.

It would be helpful if we could get 2 more sets of Building Reps so that volunteers will repeat about every 6-8 weeks. Just 1.5 hours on a Friday evening starting at 4:45pm.

Please contact Jim Wick for information and/or to sign up. Thanks.

BVCC Food Pantry Donation Requests

This week's most urgent needs are:

***Pastas & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Individually packaged snacks,**

4 pk. & single packs of Toilet paper, Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Shampoo & conditioner and/or monetary donations.

Donations can be dropped off at the BVCC at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Tuesdays-Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping online-only until June 6th.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

