

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

May 2, 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



CENTERING PRAYER

**Lead us, O God, in ways that help us nurture our connection with the true vine.
May we accept your invitation to bear good fruits. Jesus continues to show us the way.**

PRELUDE

Take Time to Be Holy
GEORGE C. STEBBINS / VAN DENMAN THOMPSON

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, and productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.

We have not loved others as you have loved us.

We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you.

Forgive us, restore us,

that we might abide in your love and live out your mercy.

Hear our silent confession:

WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE

We have already been cleansed by the word that God speaks to us.

God claims us and joins us to Christ,

as branches to a vine.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PEACE OF CHRIST

HANDBELL ANTHEM

They'll Know We Are Christians

WORDS AND MUSIC BY PETER SCHOLTES, ARRANGED BY MICHAEL E. AKERS.

MOMENT OF TEACHING

ACTION PRAYER

**Dear God, You love the world. You love me.
Help me love you. Help me love the world.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, let us hear your cleansing word.

Through your Word, let us be guided to produce good fruits for the world.

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Jesus says, I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide 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. I 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.**

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Good Fruits

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (4th century)

**Jesus is the head, we are the body.
He is the foundation, we the building.
He is the vine, we the branches.
He is the bridegroom, we the bride.
He is the shepherd, we the sheep.
He is the way, we walk in it.**

**Again, we are the temple, he the indweller.
He is the only begotten, we the brothers and sisters.
He is the heir, we the heirs together with him.
He is the life, we the living.
He is the light, we the enlightened.
He is the resurrection, we those who rise again.**

PRAYERS

Abiding God, remove anything in your church that hinders our love.
May we abide in your Son Jesus. May he abide in us.
Cultivate us to bear much fruit as his disciples.
We pray for Trinity and the church universal.
(Silent prayer) Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

You are love and your love surrounds all those in need.
Teach us empathy. Show us how to be justice seekers and peace makers.
We pray for our communities.
(Silent prayer) Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Ruler of the Nations, under your reign, the poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Guide us to make known your saving deeds to the ends of the earth.
We pray for our country and all peoples.
(Silent prayer) Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

In this silence, hear our joys and needs.
In this silence, let us hear your words.
(Silent prayer) Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Put your love in our lives so that we may bear good fruits,
and we pray together as Jesus teaches us:
THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Abide with Me

WORDS BY HENRY F. LYTE, MUSIC BY W. H. MONK

*Abide with me; fast fall the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

BENEDICTION

May the One Trinity God, the vine grower, tend us and make us fruitful.
May Christ Jesus abide in us and give us life.
May the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill us with God's love.