

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.

Our Approach to God

Prelude *The Call to Victory* Paxton

The Call to Worship

We gather to praise and worship God,
the one who created us for love.
We gather to worship the true vine,
the one in whose love we abide.
Let us worship God together.

The Hymn of Praise *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 376
(verses 1 & 3)

The Call to Confession John 15:2

Every branch that does not bear fruit is removed from the tree to make room to bear fruits. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us come before the Lord who is ready to prune us so we may bear fruits.

The Prayer of Confession

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Hear us Lord, as we approach you in the silence of our hearts with our individual intentions **(Silence)**. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you.

The Assurance of Pardon John 15:3

In Baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!

The Response 579
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Special Music *Abide With Me* arr. Purifoy
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The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The New Testament Reading 1 John 4:7-21

The Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

The Sermon "Shaping the Tree" Pastor Philomena

Our Response to Serve

The Affirmation of Faith (From a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. Amen!

The Hymn *May the God of Hope Go with Us* 432

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts
The Prayer of Dedication

The Charge and Benediction

Postlude As We Go Johnson
CCLI #5043277

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Please consider taking the bulletin home and disposing of it there.

Although we will no longer be taking temperatures as you enter the building on Sunday mornings, we will continue to record your name for contact tracing. We ask that you follow the Covid-19 CDC Guidelines:

- If you feel sick
- Have a fever of 100.4 or higher.
- A dry cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Gastrointestinal symptoms
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Muscle aches

Do Not enter the building.



Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians

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1 John 4:7-21

Good News Translation

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. ¹⁰ This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

¹¹ Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.

¹³ We are sure that we live in union with God and that he lives in union with us, because he has given us his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If we declare that Jesus is the Son of God, we live in union with God and God lives in union with us. ¹⁶ And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us.

God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them. ¹⁷ Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the Judgment Day; and we will have it because our life in this world is the same as Christ's. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid, because fear has to do with punishment.

¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ If we say we love God, but hate others, we are liars. For we cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen. ²¹ The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love others also.

John 15:1-8

Good News Translation

15 "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. ³ You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. ⁴ Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. ⁶ Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. ⁸ My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.