

Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am
Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 2nd May 2021

Easter 5
COCU35B

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.

I am the vine, you are the branches ...



WELCOME AND GREETING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful, we lay down our fears, to boldly sing God's praise.

**Here in the vineyard of God,
with our sisters and brothers in Christ,
we tell stories of faith and let grace emerge like buds on the vine.**
Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:
we shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.

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HYMN TiS 153 God is love, let heav'n adore him

1
God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's
foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all
creation
God is love, eternal Love.

3
God is love, and, though with
blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees 1874-1939
Tune: Abbot's Leigh; Cyril Vincent Taylor
1907-91

2
God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are
breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Teach us to love one another
with that passion which comes
from your overflowing heart, Vine Grower.

**Teach us to serve one another
with that compassion which comes
from our broken-open hearts, Vine of our lives.**

Teach us to include others
with that embracing welcome which comes
from your inviting heart, Fruit-bearing Spirit.

**Teach us, here and now,
God in community, Holy in One. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us,
so they can bear fruit in our lives.
But we resist staying connected to the Vine,
thinking we can flourish on our own.
Let us confess our sins,
so we might once more know deep within our spirits
what it feels like to abide in God.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In Christ's perfect love, our fear is put to the side,
and now, like branches of a vine,
we live in Christ and draw our life from Christ,
that we might bear much fruit – hope, joy, love.

**We give thanks for the nourishment received
at this table, our roots having found deep, clear waters once again.
Amen.**

HYMN TiS 531 Sent forth by God's blessing

1
Sent forth by God's blessing, our
true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table
take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be
extended
the fruits of his service in all who
believe.

The seed of his teaching, our
hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all
humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love
shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his
purpose to find.

2
With praise and thanksgiving to
God ever-living
the tasks of our everyday life we will
face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever
caring,
embracing as neighbours all those
of each race.

One feast that has fed us, one light
that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we
share.
Then may all the living, with praise
and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name
that we bear.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Go now, and love one another,
because love is from God.
Remain in Christ,
and like branches of a vine, draw your life from Christ.

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May the Christ in whom you abide give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The sign of the peace is exchanged.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God:

“Get up,” you cried to your Word and Spirit,

“and go down the wilderness road to chaos.”

And so they went,

**calling forth life out of nothingness,
planting seeds that branched into vines,
pouring clear water into earth’s hollows,
crafting us in your imaginative image.**

You showed all of this to us, with delight in your heart,

but we did not understand what we were seeing,

**and so chose death and sin
to be our guides in this life.**

Though we loved you last, you loved us first,

sending your prophets to declare all you had done,

**but we continued to abide
in the tangled briars of waywardness.**

So you sent Jesus to us, the One who would bear your fruit
of salvation and hope for all your children.

When we could do nothing to prevent our bondage to sin,

he came to set us free.

When we could not learn how to make things right with you,

**he went down the wilderness road
into the cold tomb of death,**

so, as you raised him to new life,

he might proclaim to us, **“God has done it!”**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Be present with us at this Table,

as you pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup,

and on your children gathered in this place.

The broken bread reminds us that you loved us first so that,

as we eat of it, we might put the needs

of the hungry, the searching,
the hurting, the lonely before our own.

The cup of grace nourishes us

so we can join

the oppressed and the outcasts, intertwining our branches with theirs,

so we all become part

of the Vine of grace, justice and of hope. **Amen.**

Father and Mother of Compassion:

called to be one body,

we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces;

called to be your children of love,

we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers;

though your Perfect Love was broken for us,

we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.

We long to abide in you, Vine Grower.

Forgive us our wrong doings,

so we may live boldly, love fearlessly,

and proclaim unceasingly the love of Christ.

A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God’s love is alive, beating, breathing in us.

Because we abide in God, we can live for others,

allowing God’s love to bear fruit in us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS:

John 4: 7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

John 15: 1-8

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN Tis 179 Praise with joy the world's Creator

1
Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human
knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

3
Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or
gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure
foolishness none dare deride.

2
Praise the Son who feeds the
hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant
presence
Friend and Stranger, Guest and
Host.

4
Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe,
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May we not hoard these gifts for ourselves,
but offer them back to you,
that those who are poor might be fed,
those who are lonely befriended,
and those who are despairing be filled with hope. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, you have called us to follow in the way of Christ,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but also with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This is my prayer/ **This is our prayer**

Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that,
just as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of compassion near by our words and deeds.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Come, all you who are loved by God.
Come to this table where bread is shared,
and the fruit of the vine is shared.
Come and eat food with no cost. Come and drink with no money to pay.
We come to eat, to drink, and our hearts are glad.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

We remember the words from our tradition:
On the night that Jesus was betrayed while sharing a meal with his
friends he took bread, after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them
saying: **"Take eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me."**

After supper he took the cup and again giving thanks he gave it to his
friends saying: **"This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed
for you and for all people for the remission of sins. Do this as often
as you drink it in remembrance of me."**

And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus – his faithfulness, his compassion,
his indiscriminate love, his costly grace,
and his courageous commitment to the righteousness of God.