

SERMON

“Abide in the Vine”

Pastor Clarissa

---

~THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING~

---

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

---

Pastor: God of all goodness; People: hear our prayer.

---

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

---

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. Jehovah-Jireh, our Provider, every gift we need, every blessing we have comes from you. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

---

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

---

\*Please stand as you are able.

L: Go now, in the love of our God.

P: We will live for others through our God.

L: Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

P: We will forgive others, just as we have been forgiven.

L: Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

P: We will serve others in every need, in every place, in every heart.

\*Pastor: And now to the One who abides in us, as we abide in Him. To the One who loves us with a tender mercy that keeps us. To the One who prunes us so that we may grow exponentially, to this gracious and loving Savior Jesus Christ through whom all things can be accomplished, and through whom the prayers of all people, in all stations of life are answered: to Him we give thanks and praise, always and forevermore.



POSTLUDE:

5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

---

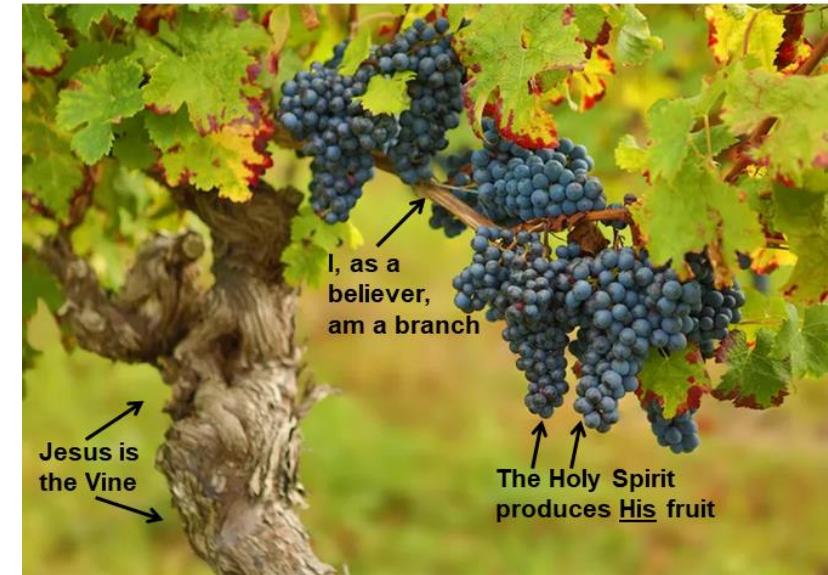
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ May 2, 2021

---

**"Abide  
in Me".**

John 15:4

Abide in the  
**vine** means to be  
united to Jesus (*connection*),  
to rely on Jesus (*dependence*), and  
to remain in Jesus (*continuance*).



**Liturgist  
Singer**

**Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor**

**\*Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

---

**~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~**

---

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

---

**~WELCOME~**

---

**GREETING**

Pastor: People of God, we are practicing abiding in Christ as we worship together this Easter morning, with the hope that it will continue after the benediction is pronounced and the postlude ends. Cultivating habits for lifelong worship is a part of what we do when we gather for worship – whether in-person or virtual. Come. Let's worship and abide together!

**Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-338-8535 or faumc.org**

---

**~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~**

---

**CENTERING MUSIC**

**\*CALLED TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

L: Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,

**P: we lay down our fears, to boldly sing God's praise.**

L: Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

**P: plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life.**

L: Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days.

**P: Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.**

L: Come, God waits to serve us at the Table:

**P: we shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.**

**HYMN: "There's Something About That Name" (x1) UMH  
171**

**\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Unison)**

Teach us to love one another with that passion which comes from your overflowing heart, Vine Grower, so those around us will recognize us as sisters and brothers, bound together by your love not divided by our fears.

Teach us to serve one another with compassion which comes from our broken heart, Vine of our lives, for the hungry are our brothers, the immigrants are our sisters, the homeless are our families.

Teach us include others with that embracing welcome which comes from your inviting heart, Fruit-bearing Spirit, offering forgiveness to those who hurt us, peace to all filled with hate, hope to those burdened by despair.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: 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 can once more feel God abiding deep within us.

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**All: Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing in you!

**P: Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**HYMN "O How I Love Jesus" UMH  
170**

---

**~WE PROCLAIM~**

---

**John 15:1-8 The Voice (VOICE)**

I am the true vine, and My Father is the keeper of the vineyard. My Father examines every branch in Me and cuts away those who do not bear fruit. He leaves those bearing fruit and carefully prunes them so that they will bear more fruit; already you are clean because you have heard My voice. abide in Me, and I will abide in you. A branch cannot bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine, and neither will you if you are not connected to Me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is like a branch

that is tossed out and shrivels up and is later gathered to be tossed into the fire to burn. If you abide in Me and My voice abides in you, anything you ask will come to pass for you. Your abundant growth and your faithfulness as My followers will bring glory to the Father.

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God!**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: May the God of searches be with you.

**P: And also, with you.**

L: Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

**P: We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.**

L: Lift songs of praise to our God.

**P: We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming, “God has done it!”**

L: “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 we 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 temptation.

So, you sent Jesus to us,

the One who would bear your fruit

of salvation and hope for all your children.

With those who seem to feel your hearts, with those seeking to understand your hopes, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

**P: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of eunuchs and evangelists. All creation bears fruit in glorifying you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us. Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Love is your language of holiness, Branch weaving God,

And Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart.

When we were wandering lost and alone,

trying to understand what we were doing,

he crossed over glory to join us in this journey we know as life.

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 your raised him to new life, he might proclaim to us,

“God has done it!”

As we seek to abide in Jesus, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

**P: Christ died, that we might live through him; Christ was raised, that he might live through you; Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.**

Pastor: Abide in 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 go over and join

the oppressed and the outcasts,

intertwining our branches with theirs,

so, we all become part

of the Vine of justice and of hope.

Then, when we no longer sleep in death,

but are gathered around your Table

with our sisters and brothers of all time and places,

we will join in singing with one voice and heart,

“You have done it, God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**”

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)**

**Heavenly Father, thank You for Christ Jesus the true and living Vine. Thank You that You have called me to be a branch on that living Vine. God the Vine Grower, tend me and make me fruitful; may Christ Jesus abide in me and give me life. And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill me with God’s love. We thank you gracious God,**

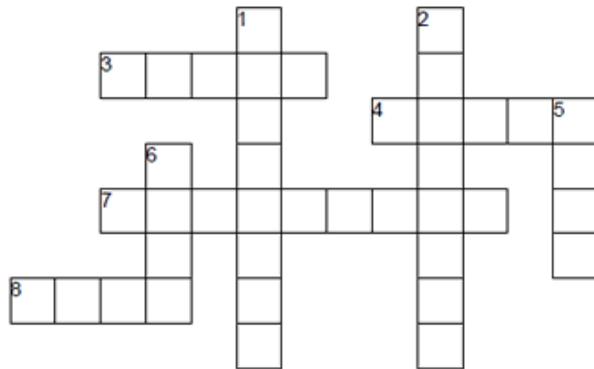
for the intimacy of this sacrament of your grace, reminding us that as in Christ you chose to make your home with us, as we make our home with you. Let our awareness of our intimacy with you, help us to live in harmony with others. Give us the courage and the will to do the hard labor of loving others, even as Christ on the cross did the hard labor of loving and redeeming the world. Amen.

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR YOUTH~

## The True Vine

"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8.



### ACROSS

- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
- 7. Those who follow Jesus
- 8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

### DOWN

- 1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 2. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 5. The opposite of false
- 6. Burning flame

TRUE	FIRE	GARDENER	FRUIT
DISCIPLES	GLORY	VINE	BRANCHES

## The Pruning

Youth Sermon-- John 15:1-8

Lesson Focus: If we want to bear Jesus' fruit, we must abide in Him. Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Object: Pruning shears and a branch

Focus Scripture: I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are the branches. Without me, you can bear no fruit. John 15: Sometimes we might not want to follow directions because we don't understand why we must do something. We also might disagree about it, or we might even be afraid.

How many of you have done some pruning lately?

Pruning involves cutting away parts of plants. Some of these parts are dead, but many are still alive. Branches that are growing far away from the plant must be pruned. There is renovation pruning, where plants that become a tangled mess get cut back. Hard pruning is done in the winter, and it is when you cut a plant down to one inch of the ground. Pruning is like an injury to a plant. It needs time to heal.

It's a little scary to prune a plant, because there is always the fear that it will not grow back.

Here is the Good News. As Jesus says, God is the master Gardener. He is constantly pruning us, taking away what is not good for us, and putting us in places where we can thrive. Just as with a plant, sometimes God's pruning of us can look wrong to us or make us feel hurt or challenged. We may ask, God, why are you allowing this to happen to me?

Remember the words of Jesus: You did not choose me. I chose you to go and bear much fruit. The kind of fruit that lasts forever.

Let us pray. Dear Heavenly father, we thank you for pruning us so that we may bear fruit. We thank you for choosing us to be your disciples. Just as you have commanded, we will remain in your love. Amen.