

SUNDAY, 5/2/21
10 a.m.

PRELUDE

Communion Medley

Deb Verdegan

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Cathy Christman

CENTERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER

(adapted from ministrymatters.com)

L: Each week in worship, it would be easy to get overwhelmed with the one liners of our faith: “God is love. Love is from God.” All of these are true and important, but we need to pick each one up and examine it alone. We need to get to the root of this good news.

The root of this good news is a truth that amazes us, that God has sent us the true vine to save us not because we first loved God, but because God first and last loved us. By this we know humility as God is our Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, Love that began the beginning and knows no end. God’s love is the love that birthed the world and makes it grow. It is the love that grasped nurtures the seeds of faith that are planted in each one of us.

God’s love is love that changes the world, inside and out. With the roots of our faith grounded in this love, we enter this time of worship for praise, eager to learn and ready to follow the way that God would have us go.

Bring us now into your vineyard, Lord. Prune us and tend us, that we may bear good fruit. We offer you all that we are; rooted and centered in your love. Press us into the wine of the new covenant, that the cup of the new kingdom may be filled to overflowing. With Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

ALL: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn’t love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God’s Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, “I love God” and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don’t love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

SERMON:

Keeping Rooted
(cont. on next page)

Rev. Cathy Christman

MINISTRY MOMENT: *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Please have your communion items ready.
(see attached page)

CLOSING HYMN SING

Amazing Grace and How Great Thou Art

BENEDICTION As people rooted in love, let us express our thanksgiving and praise God's name May God's love be seen in us. Let us hold tight with our determined faith and a fervent love, that we might be reflections of God's divine grace.

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Deb Verdegan

**THANK YOU TO OUR VOCALISTS,
READER/LITURGIST (Mike Christman), CHOIR,
BELLS, OUR AUDIO/VISUAL STAFF AND DEB
VERDEGAN AS MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE TODAY.**

CHURCH STAFF

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COMMUNION LITURGY

INVITATION

L: Once upon a time, God made a garden, and every creature lived in it happily with God. We took long walks with God in the cool of the evening, humans and snails, kangaroos and spiders, kitties and larks. And when we all sat down with God to eat, the curling vines gave up their fruit, the tall gold wheat gave up its grain, and we ate delicious bread and drank from a cup of blessing, singing songs under stars 'till morning. And the grateful creation was at peace.

Ever since, whenever we honor the earth by eating and drinking with heartfelt thanks, God walks with us again. God sits with us and eats. Our tables become the garden, the whole creation sighs with peace, and we see again how life was meant to be. Come, now, everyone, to this table, to the garden God planted in the East, in Eden. Come, taste and remember, taste and see how good God is.

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Thank you, Creator God, for sharing your life with us in every good thing of this world. Thank you most of all for Jesus, who sat us down to eat and drink good bread and good wine, so that in tasting how good they are we could remember how good you are. He is our East, our Eden, our Garden of Peace. In him we find the fullness of life you desired for us from the start— walking together, sharing food, living in peace. Send the Spirit to his table now where he still sits us down, where we still remember you. Bless the bread and the cup, fruit of the earth and work of our hands. May they become by your grace the taste of Eden in our hearts.

As we eat and drink together, let us see more clearly a vision of life as you meant it to be. Consecrate us to the ministry of making it so, by sharing earth's goodness with all, in reverence and hope, with justice, and joy. Amen.

SONG – COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

(holding cup/wafer)

L: Dear Friends in Christ, this is the bread Jesus blessed and broke and gave us to share in remembrance of him. This is the cup Jesus blessed and poured and gave us to drink in remembrance of him.

Eating and drinking together, we remember his death, we rejoice in his rising, and we wait for him to come again, to judge in mercy, to welcome in love, and restore all creation, to the praise and glory of God.

(all taste wafer and drink cup)

PRAYER AFTER MEAL

L: Gracious God, you have given us much this day: the wheat and grapes which found our feast, the wit and will to transform them into symbols of your life and ministry through your precious Son who transfigures and redeems all that we have broken and lost. Send us out now to care for this fragile earth, our home as we are all rooted in love with you by your Spirit. Grant us the wit and will to transform the toxic, irreverent ways we live, and the saving presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, who goes before us and calls us into this world you love. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen!

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace!
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost,
But now am found,
Was blind,
But now I see.

Twas grace that taught
My heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did
That grace appear
The hour I first believed.

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

2. Come to the table of peace...

3. Come to the table of love...

4. Come to the table of joy...

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God!
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed.

REFRAIN

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God to thee,
How great thou art,
How great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God to Thee;
How great thou art,
How great thou art!

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook,
And feel the gentle breeze;

REFRAIN

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God to thee,
How great thou art,
How great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God to Thee;
How great thou art,
How great thou art!