



**Faith**  
UNITED CHURCH of Christ

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor  
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus  
Dr. Ruth Foley | Music Director

Sunday, April 28, 2024  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

**5th Sunday of Easter**

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## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Time of Silent Preparation*

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "I tell you this so that my joy be in you..."

**People: Love one another as I have loved you..."**

Leader: Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I ask you..."

**People: Love one another as I have loved you..."**

Leader: Jesus said, "I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..."

**People: Love one another as I have loved you..."**

Leader: As we gather in worship, we know the love of Christ surrounds us.

**All: We come to be a community where love lives and grows!**

## INVOCATION

\*HYMN *Come, We That Love the Lord* Gray #22

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free

from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**CHILDREN'S LESSON**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

I John 4:7-13

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

**ANTIPHONAL READING**

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;**

it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

**Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

**Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.**

**\*HYMN**     *For the Fruit of All Creation*     Gray #379

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful.<sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**SERMON** “The Vine and the Gardener, and the Pruning of Branches”

**RECOGNITION OF LONGEVITY in life, marriage, and membership**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER**

\***HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Gray #62, 1,2,3

\***GIFTS and OFFERINGS** *There is an offering plate on the small table near doors as you exit the sanctuary. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources. Amen.*

\***DOXOLOGY**

\***BENEDICTION**

\***CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING**

*Go Now in Peace*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with us each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide us in all we do.*

\***POSTLUDE**



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. And also for those whose needs we do not know. Bill Bates, Herb Berlin, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Stephen Dearth, Barb Fink, Louise Forney, Brennan Granville, Pat Granville, Jim Henry, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Bruce Lounsbury, Carol Mueller, Claudia Renzi, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Loretta Rishel, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Fred Shear, Linda Smerka, Sydney Stisser, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore.

**For Those in the Military:** Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Joe Solak, Mark Solak, Aaron Wellman, and Mark Williams.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today is the last day to order t-shirts!** Free to members and friends, donations accepted at time of pick up. See order sheet at table in narthex.
- There will be a **Coffee Hour after worship today** sponsored by the Deacons.
- **The Christian Education Committee** will meet after worship on May 5.
- We will be collecting the **Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.** Special Strengthen the Church envelopes are available on the table by the doors to the sanctuary.

## OPERATING BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES

Average weekly operating expenses: \$2,465

Offering collection for **April 21, 2024:** \$855

Current: \$815 Benevolent: \$40

Attendance on Sunday, April 14, 2024: 65