

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
April 28th, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter
“Vine and Branches”



Centering Words

(1 John 4, John 15)

Connected to Christ through the power of love, we become the presence of God for the world.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available On Demand on Vimeo and Amazon Fire
TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – April 28th, 2024

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: We delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

All: Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.

One: Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

All: Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.

One: Come, let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

All: Amen

Unison Invocation

Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives.

Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love.

Plant us together in your peace.

Root us together in your hope.

Transform us together by your equal justice for all.

In your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn Vine and Branches**

He's the vine and we're the branches, We should e'er abide in Him,

And let Him abide within us, As the flow of life within.

In the vine, in the vine, In the vine, in the vine,

We would know Thee, Lord, more deeply, E'er abiding in the vine.

As we hear His instant speaking, He's the rich indwelling Word;

To abide we must be faithful To the speaking that we've heard. (REFRAIN)

For 'tis here we know abiding, In the real and deepest way;

If we love our Lord completely, We would do whate'er He'd say. (REFRAIN)

Then His love abides within us, And in love abiding, we

Know the joy of life-communion, Full and perfect harmony. (REFRAIN)

Oh, how precious this abiding, Oh, how intimate and sweet;

As the fruit of life is added, And our joy is made complete. (REFRAIN)

He's the vine and we're the branches

Experience of Christ — Abiding in Him

1163

1. He's the vine and we're the branches, We should e'er abide in
Him, And let Him abide within us As the flow of life with-
in. (C) In the vine, in the vine, In the vine, in the
vine, We would know Thee, Lord, more deep - ly, E'er a - bid - ing in the vine.

Chorus

Chords: F, C, F, Am, Bb, C, F, D, Gm, Bb, F/C, C7, F, C/E, A, Dm, F/A, Bb, C, F, D/F#, Gm, Bb, F/C, C7, F

2. As we hear His instant speaking,
He's the rich indwelling Word;
To abide we must be faithful
To the speaking that we've heard.

3. For 'tis here we know abiding
In the real and deepest way;
If we love our Lord completely,
We would do whate'er He'd say.

4. Then His love abides within us,
And in love abiding, we
Know the joy of life-communion,
Full and perfect harmony.

5. Oh, how precious this abiding,
Oh, how intimate and sweet;
As the fruit of life is added,
And our joy is made complete.

Passing the Peace

Welcome/Announcements

- Spiritual Studies continues Wednesdays at 7pm – The “OTHER” Books
- Saturday May 4 - Cello Recital (Garibaldi Caputo) 6pm
- Sunday May 5 - Southland Symphony Season Final with Ruslan Biryukov – 4pm
- Sunday May 19 3pm – Ontario Youth Symphony Concert

Children’s’ Time

Gloria

Glory to the Creator
The Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end, Amen, Amen.

71 Glory to the Creator

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system (measures 1-4) has chords C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, and Am/C. The second system (measures 5-8) has chords G/D, D7, G, C, G7, and G7. The third system (measures 9-12) has chords C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G7, and C. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

C G/D C G/B G C G/B Am/C
Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho - ly Spi - rit

5 G/D D⁷ G C G⁷ G⁷
three in one; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

10 C G G/F C/E C/G G⁷ C
shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In 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.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

So 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.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

There 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.

We love because he first loved us.

Those 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.

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8**Pastor Sylvia**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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.

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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON*Vine and Branches***Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)

Creating God, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation.

Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart.

Help us to grow your garden of love.

Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope.

Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom.

Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives.

Give us new life, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Christ is the vine. We are the branches.

If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayers – *Call to mind the joys and concerns on your heart*

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Call to the Offering - Invitation

Dr. Mann

One: Cultivating God, in your generosity, we receive new blessings with each passing day.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: You offer us light from the sun, moon, and stars to guide, nurture, and lovingly shine upon all creation.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: Your loving generosity is more than we could ever hope for and beyond imagination.

All: Great is your faithful abundance, O God.

One: Let us give our offerings with a heart of gratitude for God's Garden of blessings and love.

Please remember to send your offerings in so that we can continue our ministries.

(If you want a portion of your offering to be designated as something specific, just write that in the message area.) If you forget to write a note with the offering – just email us (info@BethelUCCOntario.org) or message us through Facebook.

Giving Options: In person – We are not yet “passing the plate”. You may leave your offering in one of the offering plates (front of the sanctuary, or usher's table in the rear).

Give online at www.betheluccontario.org,



To use a credit or debit card, use the yellow “Donate” button (processed by PayPal – no PP account required), or the green Tithe.ly button (Processed by Tithe.ly)



Use **ZELLE** (through your bank website or via the stand alone app) to transfer your offering to us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are “Bethel Congregational Church” Our verified Zelle email is info@betheluccontario.org



MAIL - Just mail your check to Bethel Congregational Church
536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.



Church

QR Code – Scan the code to send your offering to us through PayPal

Scan. Pay. Go.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (Unison)

Compassionate God may these gifts be blessed by your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches of despair to bring us hope. Shine your light of peace on our weariness to bring us justice for all. With Christ as our vine, save us from all that seek to bring us harm. May these fruitful gifts be a blessing in your garden of love. Amen.

Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



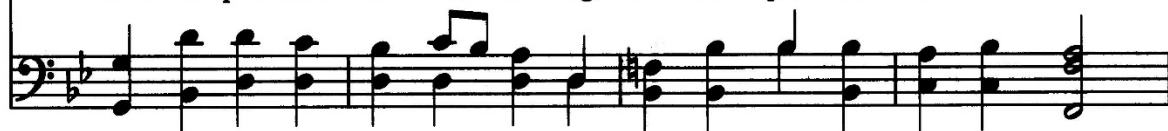
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



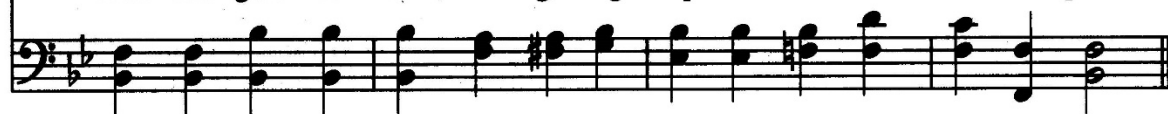
We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

Benediction (Unison)

Great is your faithfulness, O God, our strength and our Redeemer.

Without you, nothing would be possible.

Without you, there would be no light in the darkness.

But, in Christ, we see that all things are possible.

In Christ, we are the branches on his vine living according to your divine purpose.

Creating God, help us to see your faithfulness as we leave this place of worship.

Let us grow in your mercy. Strengthen us as we seek to produce much fruit for the harvest of your love here on earth as it is in heaven.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.



Bethel Ontario Online
Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
www.betheluccontario.org
info@betheluccontario.org
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@betheluccontario.org
(626) 393-5507

Live Stream Worship Sundays at 9:55am
on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)

Also available on [Roku](#) and [Amazon Fire TV](#).

**All music licensed and used by permission
(CCLI, One License, Artist Permission, PD)*

God sends us to serve, but God does not send us alone.

The Spirit is with us in the world, guiding our steps and protecting our paths. Christ yearns for us to be one in ministry and service, and one in community and faith—a unity that we discover through the Spirit's miraculous power in our lives. Sent to serve, we are sent not only with the power of the Spirit, but also with the power of unity with one another.

Embracing this unity with both the Holy Spirit and one another opens a path to the "complete joy" that Christ prays we may one day know.