

Order of service for May 2, 2021 Lakeview United Church
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Worship Leader: Bryan Tudor

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive – words on the screen)

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive and productive.

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

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Prayer of Approach (Unison – words on screen)

Lord God, we would grow with you; new shoots reaching out, hands stretched upward like leaves newly formed and soaking up your light and warmth. Loving One, we would grow with you; in sunshine and rain, in darkness and light, in warm days and cool evenings. Holy presence, we would grow with you and bring forth fruit that is pleasing to you, fed by your living water and giving sustenance to others. Lord God, we would grow with you.

Opening Hymn: *Abide with Me, O Christ, the One True Vine*

Abide with me, O Christ, the one true vine.

Root me in love and train me to be kind

Guide all my actions, thoughts so I can be

fruitful for you, O Christ, abide in me.

I can do nothing, Lord, apart from you.

Yours is the glory, strength and wisdom too.

May I obey and faithful always be.

O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.

Stay with me, God, through all this life does bring.

Your nearness is a joy for all to sing.

Grant me a heart that serves you all my days.

Almighty God, I will abide always.

Words by Elaine Bidgood Sweet

Gathering Lent/Easter 2021. Used with permission

Prayer (Together – words on the screen)

Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts of God's amazing love, the love that casts out all fear.

For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore, to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities, to build theories and then cross-examine them. We thank you, God of adventurous love.

For the love that enables us to marvel at our own existence, to ponder and remember, recognize our own needs and affirm our own knowledge and purpose. We thank you, God of determined love.

For the love that helps us to communicate with one another, to express trust and respect, share heartaches and visions and to convey love and mercy. We thank you, God of reconciling love.

For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us, to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten. We thank you, God of nurturing love.

For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us in poetry and song, to delight in shapes and colours, intricacies and patterns, awesome forces and deep mysteries. We thank you God of visionary love.

For the love that encourages us to express something of our faith; for creeds and prayers, hymns and readings, discussion groups and sermons. We thank you, God of creative love.

Above all else we thank you for the love that allows us to admit that we have no words in which to adequately describe the process of faith in Christ, the awesome worship of our God, and the holy wonder of the Spirit. We thank you for that point where our love becomes wordless adoration. Through Christ Jesus, who is the pure glory of your loving. Amen!

~ *Silent reflection* ~

Words of Assurance

Hymn: 227 Voices United, *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Children's Time – The Vine

Prayer for illumination (Unison on screen)

Living God, as we listen to these old, old texts, inspired by you, may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts. May your words of wisdom speak to us in new and unexpected ways, and may your wisdom enlighten us and inspire us to action as your hands, feet and voices in our world today. Amen.

John 15:1-8 Jesus is the true vine

Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

Music for Reflection: *Long Before My Journey's Start*

Reflection - We must love everyone

Hymn: 588 Voices United, *Many are the Lightbeams* (verses 1, 2, 3 and 5)

Prayer of Dedication of the Offering

Offering Music: 34 More Voices, *All is Done for the Glory* (verse 1, X2)

Stories of our Faith – Women Work for Change in Zambia

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer (words on the screen)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names; 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: 510 Voices United, *We Have this Ministry*

Commissioning and Benediction (words on the screen)

We are sent from here as branches of the real vine. May we go forth and bear the fruits of peace and justice, that these fruits may endure forever in our world. And may the blessings of God, Gardener of all creation, Jesus Christ, the True Vine, and the Holy Spirit, bearer of the fruits of truth and love, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction Response: *Risen Indeed!* (chorus, X2)

Postlude