



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

2 May 2021 – 10:30 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bonnie Lange, liturgist

One: We pray, O God, for strength through your Holy Spirit.

All: For we are grounded in love.

One: May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.

All: For we are grounded in love.

One: May we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

All: For we are grounded in love.

One: May we love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action.

All: For we are grounded in love.

HYMN 349 (stanzas 1, 3 & 5)

I Come with Joy

tune: DOVE OF PEACE

Led by Lori Rivera & Art Alm

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends,
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.**

**Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,
And live the way we pray.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Bonnie Lange

PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4: 7-12, 18-21

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. 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.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-5

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

SERMON

Abiding In Love

Pastor Dave

MEDITATION

The Times They Are a-Changin'
Lori Rivera, vocals • Art Alm, piano

Bob Dylan

OFFERTORY

Invitation

www.PeaceUnited.org/giving
www.PeaceUnited.org/Pledge

Offertory Music

Offertory (from *Santa Cruz Liturgy*)

Art Alm

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MEDITATION

Everything Must Change

Bernard Ighner

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all goodness, we thank you for the nourishment of our faith and the renewal of our lives through this Communion in Christ. So send us now into the world as instruments of your peace. Where there is hate, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O God, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. (inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1181 to October 3, 1226)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bright Blue Rose

Jimmy MacCarthy