

*Virtual Worship Service*  
*the Fifth Sunday of the Easter Season*  
*Crossnore Presbyterian Church*  
*Sunday, May 2, 2021*



**Choral Call to Worship: *In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified***

Sing along with Christ Community of Europe:

<https://youtu.be/tdMXa-2Tz68>

**Welcome and Announcements (attached PDF)**

**Call to Worship:**

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

God's love is for us and for all people everywhere.

**That we may share God's love and life,**

**that we may be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.**

The living Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

**Hymn of Praise # 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth***

Text: Follitt Sandford Pierpont, 1864; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abridged by William Henry Monk, 1861

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE: <https://youtu.be/IUBMAi4jA1E>

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:**

**Refrain:**

**Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]**

**Call to Confession:**

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion and love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole.

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, God of Love, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.**

**Forgive us, Divine Gardner. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. Vine of our lives, continue to help us branch out with love to those who are hungry physically and spiritually (moment of silent confession). Amen.**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring us in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

**As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

#### **Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 246 *Christ Is Alive!***

Text: Brian Wren, 1968, revised, 1995; Music: Musica Sacra, c. 1778

Sing along with Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA: <https://youtu.be/ST4DDnbn4zc>

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**



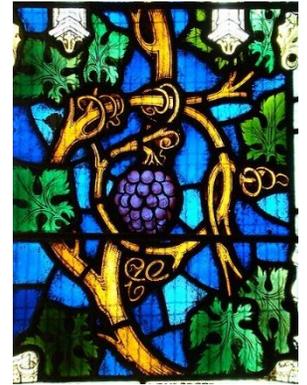
#### **First Lesson: 1 John 4:7-13**

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.

**Special Music: *Open Thou Mine Eyes* composed and conducted by John Rutter  
Sung by the Cambridge Singers: <https://youtu.be/dMKqrAmAon8>**

## Second Lesson: 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: "I am the Vine" (PDF and Zoom Recording in email)**

**Rev. Kathy Campbell**

### **Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

All good things come from God, the giver of life. We are called as stewards of God's gifts to share in fulfillment of God's purposes for creation. As stewards of the kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving.

### **Doxology # 608**

Text: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988; Music: Hal H. Hopson

Sing along with Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC: <https://youtu.be/BKcni5ilJl>

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

We dedicate this money as one evidence of our stewardship, loving God. Our silver and gold have no value except as they are invested according to your purposes. Our lives gain value as we give our time and talents in loving service. Use all that we have and give to build the community you intend, through Christ our Lord.

### **Hymn of Meditation # 509 *All Who Hunger Gather Gladly***

Text: Sylvia J. Dunstan, 1990; Music: William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska: <https://youtu.be/sREgP7LbTO4>

All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.

We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

As you prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper,  
place a loaf of bread (or a slice) on a plate and fill a cup with juice or wine.  
These are the elements that will be blessed as Christ invites us to share in the joyful feast.  
It is Christ who invites us to the table, Christ who feeds us,  
and Christ who calls us to share his body with others in ways that are healing, helpful, and hopeful.

**Invitation:**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share in the feast he has prepared.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with choirs of angels

and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,

that we may serve as your faithful disciples

until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God,

through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit,

now and forever. Amen.

**Words of Institution:**

On the night that he was betrayed,

Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you,

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,*

*shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*

*Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,

you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Sharing of the Bread and the Cup**

Pass the bread to the person next to you and say,

**“The Body of Christ given for you.”**

Pass the cup to the person next to you and say,

**“The Blood of Christ shed for you.”**

**Prayer after Communion:**

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation  
you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit to be the Body of Christ  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn # 366 *Love's Divine All Loves Excelling***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/TQrNMJrgbyM>

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Charge and Benediction:**

Christ is Risen and He goes before us, into this world of fear and pain.  
He has called us to bring the Good News of healing and hope, of redemption.  
Go in peace and feel the presence of the Risen Lord within you, now and forever. Amen.

**Postlude: *Blessed Assurance* sung by Alan Jackson**

<https://youtu.be/wPZMlvGN1Hw>