**April 29, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Weekday Ministries Sunday*

We turn our attention today to one of the great “I Am” sayings of Jesus, who says “I am the true vine.” Any gardener knows that vines can be unruly. **They prefer to grow and keep growing. They need to be managed well, just like the branches of the “true vine,” Jesus Christ.**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 111 How can we name a Love** (stanzas 1-2, seated) *Terra beata*

**Worship & Song 3155 The Lord of Life, a vine is he** (standing) *Latham*

**Greeting**

Leader: Praise the Lord from heaven!
 Praise God on the heights!

**People: Let us praise the name of the Lord,**

 **who alone is exalted;
 whose name is above earth and heaven.** *Psalm 148:1, 13*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45*Karl Erickson*

 Alleluia! Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death

 and brought life and immortality through the Gospel. Alleluia!

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Christ says: I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

 What do you say?

**People: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Shelter us!**

Pastor: Christ says: You have been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

**People: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Prune us!**

Pastor: Christ says: Abide in me as I abide in you.

**People:** **Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Sustain us!**

Pastor: Christ says: Apart from me you can do nothing.

**People: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Save us!**

Pastor: Christ says: Ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

**People: Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Alleluia! Amen.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 66 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**  (standing) *Lauda anima*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**God of city dwellers and of country people, God of developing nations and of industrial powers, God of laborers and of administrators, your people speak in many languages and experience you in many ways. Open our hearts and minds to the truth that others can tell us about you. Help us to hear today all the ways you reach out to us, and to discern your will for our lives. May we all be connected as branches to the one true vine.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3119** *Take, O take*

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

 **Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong. Text ©1999 Abingdon Press. Used under OneLicense A-728761

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service.

**A Word from Our Weekday Ministries Director** 10:45 Mettelise Ziegler

**Song from Our Weekday Children** 10:45 Bernice Merchant, Director

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymnal 191**   **Jesus loves me** (seated)  *Jesus Loves Me*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Joeta D’Este 10:45 Judy Moeller

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 John 4:7-21 God is love

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 **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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation Alleluia**  *James Chepponis*

 (sing “Alleluia” 6 times following the pastor/choir, standing)

Scripture Reading A Lesson from the Gospels

 John 15:1-8 The vine and the branches

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *text by Vajda, arr. by K. L. Scott*

Amid the world’s bleak wilderness a vineyard grows with promise green,

the planting of the Lord himself, the planting of the Lord.

His love selected this terrain, his vine with love he planted here

to bear the choicest fruit for him, the choicest fruit for him.

We are his branches, chosen, dear, and though we feel the dresser’s knife,

we are the objects of his care, the objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life, for him supply his winery

with fruit from which true joys derive, from which true joys derive.

Vine, keep what I was meant to be: your branch, with your rich life in me.

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing)*Lasst uns erfreuen*

 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Praise God the source of all our gifts!

 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The True Vine” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**A Modern Affirmation**  UMH #885

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is,

 there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal,

 whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: We believe in God the Father,**

 **infinite in wisdom, power and love,**

 **whose mercy is over all his works,**

 **and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

 **We believe in Jesus Christ,**

 **Son of God and Son of man,**

 **the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,**

 **the ground of our hope,**

 **and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit**

 **as the divine presence in our lives,**

 **whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance**

 **of the truth of Christ,**

 **and find strength and help in time of need.**

 **We believe that this faith should manifest itself**

 **in the service of love**

 **as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,**

 **to the end**

 **that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Worship & Song 3155 The Lord of Life, a vine is he** (standing) *Latham*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Michele, Jeff and Natalie Myers in loving memory of Mike.

**The roses on the altar** are given by the Kerygma class in loving memory of Lynn Beck.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir.

**Greeters 8:30** Joeta D’Este **10:45**  Priscilla Utzig and David Seitz

**Acolytes** Logan Walters and Abigail Nagle

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 John 4:7-21**

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In 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. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So 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.

17Love 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.18There 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. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those 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. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**John 15:1-8**

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide 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. 5I 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. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Conversations Book Club** 4 weeks beginning Tuesday, May 8, 2018, from 1:15 to 2:30 pm in Brookline Parlor, reading ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*** by Jeanne Guyon. The book is a modern translation of *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer; Praying the Heart of the Father.*

Have you ever been curious about the dynamics and balance between meditation as prayer, praying without thoughts, as compared with thought-based prayers of words? Author and theologian Dallas Willard recommends a book written in the 17th Century by Madam Guyon of Lyons, France, ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ***. According to the book jacket, John Wesley recommended it to his contemporaries. Our purposes will be to investigate, reflect, and, discuss our thoughts together. A variety of teas will be offered.

Questions? Wish to participate? Please email or call Cindy Biery cbiery1018@gmail.com

412-831-7675. If you plan to participate, please let her know so that a book can be ordered in time for advance reading. Pick up will be at the church office.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Work with the Children of Weekday Ministries** Weekday Ministries needs two staff persons: a teacher to work with preschool age children from 10 am to 6 pm every day and a 3 pm to 6 pm person to work with one-year-olds. Please contact Mettelise at 412-531-5790 or email mziegler@mlumc.org today for more information!

**Keep In Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Cindy Reichard, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Marda Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Fred Siersdorfer, Friendship Village

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

Keith Will

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Sympathy**

The congregation sends its condolences to the friends and family of church member Julie Dean, wife of Ken Dean, who passed away Thursday, April 12. Notes of sympathy may be sent to:

 Ken Dean

 216 Washington Ave., Apt. 1

 McDonald, PA 15057

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, APRIL 29 THRU SATURDAY, MAY 5**

**SUNDAY 4/29**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School/ Coffee Café Various/ Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

**MONDAY 4/30**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 5/1**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Divorce Recovery Group

 7 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 5/2**

 7:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 6 pm Homebuilders’ Potluck Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 5/3**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:00 am Hands & Hearts Epworth

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 5:30 pm Berries & Bells Rehearsal Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 5/4**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 7:30 pm Berries ‘n’ Bells Asbury Center

**SATURDAY 5/5**

 10 am Food Distribution and Food Lift Free Market Pantry