



May 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering and Welcome

Rev. Todd Smith

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Voluntary

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, your name is majestic in all the earth; your glory is
chanted above the heavens.

**People: You have crowned your people with glory and honor; we
give you all praise in response to your grace.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

Hymn #464

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Todd Smith

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of
your children we do also for him. Yet we fail to serve him due to pride, enmity, and
personal prejudice. Lord give us the will to serve others despite personal differences,
just as Jesus was the servant of all, loving all people without prejudice as we pray
together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. . .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 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. Amen.**

(Silent prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Todd Smith

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it



was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Lesson

Chrissie Galliher

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 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. 10 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. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought

to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 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. 17 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. 18 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. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 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. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

John 15:1-8

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

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Todd Smith

The words that Jesus uses to the disciples in this passage are familiar. They're the words of Jesus on the last night of his time spent with his disciples in the upper room. It was just hours before he was carted off to be crucified. In this teaching, Jesus seared into their collective consciousness a picture for them to remember when he was gone. It was an image of a vine bearing fruit. Those who connect themselves to the vine and remain in Christ, he said, will bear much fruit. Together they will fulfill the command of Christ: to love each other.

There is a reason that the mandate to produce spiritual fruit is prevalent throughout the New Testament. The only way to live lives that are grounded in the heart of a loving God is to be

plugged into the vine. The words used in the text for today are that we abide in Christ. It literally means that we dwell within the heart of God.

We drop our own self-interests for the good of the body of Christ. In other words, to dwell within means to be grafted into the vine. The vine nourishes, the vine strengthens, the vine provides life giving sustenance. Apart from the vine, the branches wither and die.

We may not die physically, but apart from the vine we die spiritually. When we die spiritually, we lose focus on the joy of a life lived near to the heart of God. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, endurance, and self-control become elusive and if we are not careful, they wither away altogether.

Hymn #543

Abide With Me

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Doxology 592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Hymn # 538

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Benediction

Rev. Todd Smith

Postlude

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

Henry Francis Lyte, 1847

EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10

William Henry Monk, 1861

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, Thy vic - to - ry?

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if Thou a - bide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
 Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7

Attr. John Fawcett, 1773

Stanza 1, line 6, alt. 1774, Conyer's *Collection of Psalms*

Stanza 3 alt. Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

Sicilian melody

1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy gos - pel's
 3. So that when Thy love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Let no fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad Thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found;
 May we ev - er Reign with Thee in end - less day.

Church Leadership

Elders (Session) -- Meet 3rd Thursday each month

2021	2022	2023
Robert Dennison	Marsha Brooks	Ruth Walker
Kirk Jones	Gary Lowe	Polly Winskowski
Carol Morrow	Carmie Messenger	
Rita Taylor		

Deacons -- Meet 1st Monday each month

2021	2022	2023
Sue Hinkley	Janet Henderson	Lynda McRee
Marylin Bradford	MaryLee Swift	Laurie Faulkner
Sandy Louderback	Terri Schwarz	Gail Lowe
Barbara Thompson		

Trustees -- Meet 1st Tuesday each month

2021	2022	2023
Jan Berlage	Sam Fielder	Craig Messenger
Eric Clayton	Bob Horn	Brian Calary
Don Scott	Steve Kauffman	Bruce Mattheiss
Dave Hinkley	Chuck Saneman	John Cairnes

Staff

Pastor/Moderator: The Rev. Todd D. Smith

Music Director/Organist: Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Children's Youth & Family Program Coordinator: Chrissie Galliher

Office Manager: Lisa Robbins

Church Treasurer: Dan Miller

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Office is CLOSED every Friday