

The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ



I Am the Vine; You are the Branches, Kathy Thaden (Mosaic)

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28th, 2024

Prelude “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”
Arr. Anne Krentz, Organ

Greeting and Announcements

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Call to Worship

One: Friends, we know what God desires of us:

All: **That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

One: We gather this morning to remind each other of that truth,

All: **To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.**

One: With thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.

***Hymn** “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer” NCH #18

The Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(In Unison)

Loving God,

When we are weary, give us bread for the journey.

When we are complacent, O God, set a fire in our bellies.

When we are frightened, O God, put courage in our hearts and hands.

When we are angry, O God, turn our anger into faithful response.

When we are bewildered, O God, help us to see and follow You.

When we stray, turn us around.

When we fail, give us another chance.

When we sin, forgive us we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

First Reading:

1 John 4: 17-21

Lynn Campo

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

Hymn "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" NCH #485
 [Please remain seated for this hymn]

Second Reading: John 15: 1-8

"I am the true vine, and God is the vineyard keeper. God removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit and trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you. God is glorified when you produce much fruit and, in this way, prove that you are my disciples."

Sermon

***Hymn**

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this dark world’s light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast.”
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live.”
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav-’ling days are done.

The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Altar flowers for this Sunday’s service are given by the Copeland family in loving memory of Peter Copeland.

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”
Arr. John Carter

***The Doxology**

(In Unison)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication**

(In Unison)

God of all, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. With these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

***Hymn** “O Savior, Let Me Walk with You” NCH #503

Benediction

Postlude “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”
Arr. Mark Patterson

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*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following our worship service, we ask that Church members please join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting. After our meeting, we will also be holding a luncheon with food from Whitney Donut! Copies of the Annual Report are still available in the Narthex.

Please join the Copeland Family for a Memorial Concert in loving memory of Pete Copeland, which will be held this afternoon in the Parish Hall. The concert will begin at 2:00pm and will be livestreamed on Facebook.

Our special collection for the UCC, “Strengthen the Church”, will be held on Sunday, May 19th. For information on the collection, please see the May newsletter.

Our Shirts and Skirts meeting for this month will be held in the parish hall on May 28th at 6:00pm. We have scheduled an Indoor Picnic. Please bring your own picnic supper. Paper goods, dessert, beverages, and entertainment will be provided. Please come and join in for an evening of fun and fellowship.

We are always looking for Volunteers for Coffee Hour. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

MAY WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD

Please join us every Sunday at 10am for service!

May 5th, 2024: Holy Communion

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10: 44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17

May 12th, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5: 9-13
John 17: 6-19

May 19th, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34
Romans 8: 22-27
John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

May 26th, 2024: Trinity Sunday

First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17

April 28th, 2024



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