BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Quincy, Massachusetts

Founded

1832



COMMUNION SUNDAY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 2, 2021

THE LORD'S DAY –Communion Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

PRELUDE: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Spiritual, arr. Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SOLO: "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows" Psalm 23

(Paul Frazer)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Wonderful the hands that gently touched lepers, the arms that embraced little children.

Wonderful the smile that welcomed outcasts, the tongue that told parables of grace.

Wonderful the courage that led to Jerusalem, the love that suffered at Golgotha.

Wonderful the lips that gave the Easter greeting, the mercy which restored ashamed disciples.

Wonderful is the Savior who has brought us here today, filled with wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI:

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

513

CONCERNS and PRAYER REQUESTS TIME OF SILENCE/PASTORAL PRAYER PRAYER RESPONSE MUSICAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 John 4:7-21 & John 15:1-8

MUSICAL RESPONSE

SERMON:

"How's Your Love Life?" Rev. Patrick S. McCorkle

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE STATEMENT OF FAITH (See Insert) COMMUNION PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER Sharing of the Bread (Eaten as we receive it) Sharing of the Cup (we drink together)

(See Inserts)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O God, we thank you for uniting us as seekers of your love, and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant in the days ahead... our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this bread and cup may be active in your service. Amen.

HYMN: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

(See Insert)

BENEDICTION

MUSICAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE: "Jesus Lover of My Soul"

The Worship is over. The service begins.

195

arr. Parks

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of and in honor of loved ones to commemorate anniversaries and birthdays. To order flowers for a particular date call Elaine Caliri at (617)472-1458

Church Telephone (617) 479-7300 E-mail: bethanycongchurch@yahoo.com Web Page: www.bethanycongchurch.org



CHURCH OFFICE LIMITED HOURS DUE TO COVID E-mails checked throughout each day Voicemails Checked daily

BETHANY CHURCH STAFF

Ministers to the World

Rev. Patrick S. McCorkle Rev. William C. Harding Matthew Hughes Sandy Johnson Judi McAuliffe Thomas Boyer Mark Simmons Jean Wilson Josh Bowes

All the Members

Senior Minister Pastor Emeritus Moderator Diaconate Co-Chairperson Diaconate Co-Chairperson Organist/Music Director Treasurer Sunday School Supt. Sexton **First Tune**



Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church

to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

	May 2 nd	Sunday	Sunday Service in the Church and online (Bethany Web Page)	9:30 AM
mark your Calendar	May 3 rd	Monday	Administrative Council Meeting (Zoom meeting ID and password will be sent to Council Members by email)	7:00PM
	MAY 10 th	Monday	Diaconate Meeting (Zoom meeting ID and password will be sent to Diaconate Members by email)	7:00 PM
	MAY 15 th	Sat.	Bethany Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale	9AM-3PM



Thank you to Tom Boyer, Paul Frazer and Marsha Sherman for providing this morning's Worship Music

Please Keep the following people in your prayers. Don't forget to reach out with a card or a call.

Kimberly Beers-Powers Pam and John Egan Family of Eric James Bob Goodnow Estelle Weinberger Peter & Grace Wang Family of Lois L. Brandes Bill Ericson `Dorothy Mersereau Bill & Carol Harding Loraine Walsh Family of Cutina Wright

Kevin Douglas Sandy Johnson Frieda Matthews Ava Piazza David and Jingjing Wang

And all of our at risk members during the COVID-19 crisis **Please send prayer requests and any church news to Bethanycongchurch.prayers@yahoo.com** All parayer request will go directly to the Ministers email.

1 JOHN 4:7-21

Perhaps the finest definition of God is given here: "God is love." Like partners in a dance, we are invited to love each other as God loves us. No one has seen God, but as we love one another we allow the world to catch a glimpse of God's true nature. In fact, God's love is somehow incomplete until we feature that love in our lives.

God Is Love

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

JOHN 15:1-8

The allegory of the vine and the branches offers insight into the way the early Christian community saw the redemptive relationship between God, Jesus and the faithful. John stretches the image most attractively. The solid trunk of the vine emerging from the ground grows long, tender branches on which the fruit is produced. Without those branches, newly grown each year, the vine cannot produce. Cut off from the root, the branches are useful only as kindling for a fire. This was a common source of firewood in ancient times. God is described as the vine grower who cares for both the vine and the branches. Part of that caring requires rigorous pruning so that the vine continues to produce good fruit.

Jesus the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Mission Moment:

"Come, and see the victories of the cross. Christ's wounds are thy healings, His agonies thy repose, His conflicts thy conquests, His groans thy songs, His pains thine ease, His shame thy glory, His death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation."

— Matthew Henry

FILL THE PEW! SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021

Donations of nonperishable food items will be collected in the Narthex. Items help to feed the needy in our local Community. All Donations will help stock the Interfaith Social Services food Pantry in Quincy.



10th Annual Church Yard Sale May 15, 2021

Thanks to everyone for your support for our past 9 Yard Sales. We are planning our 10th annual Yard Sale and again are accepting donations! Please contact Jean Wilson at 617.698.1646 or the Church office 617.479.7300 if you have items to donate, or drop them off at the Church anytime. We accept clothing, toys, household items, tools, electronics, etc. Please no furniture! Thank you for your support!"





Bethany Congregational Church Quincy, MA

Children's Worship Bulletin



John 15:1-8



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WORDS	GARDENER	REMAIN	BEAR	GLORY	
CLEAN	PRUNES	THROWN	VINE	TRUE	
FRUIT	BRANCH	FIRE	WITHERS	BURNED	

Bethany Congregational Church

Quincy, MA





ACROSS

- 5. Those who follow Jesus
- 6. The opposite of false
- Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 8. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten

DOWN

- 1. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 2. Burning flame
- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

GARDENER	FRUIT	FIRE	DISCIPLES
VINE	TRUE	GLORY	BRANCHES



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PRUNES VINE TRUE GARDENER FRUIT BEAR REMAIN BRANCHES





"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

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