

Message from Rev. Jackson for Sunday, May 2, 2021

Welcome to the month of May. This week we will consider the Gospel of John chapter 15 where Jesus talks about the vine and the branches. The focal point of this scripture is John 15:4, " Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine." This scripture makes the point that we must remain rooted in Jesus in order to bear good fruit. The good fruit is: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. These are the traits which will occur in our lives if we are centered on Jesus Christ. All too often, when a person follows the gods of this world, their fruit is the exact opposite of these traits. During the sermon on Sunday we will explore how we can stay connected to the true vine which is Jesus Christ.

In Acts 8, we will consider the story of the Apostle Philip and the Ethiopian. Philip listens to the angel of the Lord and meets an Ethiopian who was reading the prophet Isaiah and seeking an explanation. This Ethiopian's prayers are answered when Philip shows up and tells him about Jesus Christ, who is the fulfillment of Isaiah's scripture. Philip baptizes the Ethiopian and is on his way to Caesarea to continue his ministry. Good things will happen when we immerse ourselves in God's word.

The second New Testament lesson is from I John where John compares God's love to ours. John tells us "...since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." I John 4:11 When we love others, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. Again, real love thrives when it is rooted in the true vine.

The Old Testament lesson is from Psalms 22 and proclaims the future glory of the Lord. The Psalm explains the benefits for those who seek the Lord. Good fruits come from those who seek God with all their hearts.

We hope you will join us for worship and Holy communion this Sunday, as we learn how God's word can change us for the better.

See you in church!

Because He lives,

Rev. Bob Jackson

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Scripture for reflection this week:

Old Testament	Psalms 22:25-31
New Testament	Acts 8:26- 40 and I John 4:7-21
Gospel lesson	John 15: 1-8

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This week's memory verse:

AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

Romans 8:28

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A Hymn of Inspiration

"I Need Thee Every Hour "

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.

[Refrain:]

I need thee, O I need thee;
Every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.

[Refrain]

I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

[Refrain]

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
And thy rich promises in me fulfill.

[Refrain]

I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.

[Refrain]

<https://youtu.be/tfPZ9mRIKgs>

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Sunday Worship

We invite you to visit our website at <http://www.fcc-worcester.org/worship-services.html> to hear this week's recorded worship service. If you are comfortable, we welcome you to join us for worship in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. We hold you all in prayer each week. If you have any prayer requests you would like to share, please call Rev. Jackson at 508-410-1585 or email him at revrhjackson@gmail.com.