

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

May 2, 2021

Presiding – Debbie Stockdale

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

SEED OF MEDITATION

Christ, you are the stem, stalk, tree! Let your fruit take root in me. *by Miriam Therése Winter*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Affirming and Right Relations Candle: May these candles remind us to respect and defend all the wonderful diversity we and all people are created in and to honour the land we live on, the traditional territory of Treaty 7 and Métis 3 peoples.

Christ Candle: May this candle remind us that the light of Christ is with us always; within us and around us, helping us grow and live in Christ's way.

FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

God's love is for us and for all people everywhere.

May we share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

The living Christ is with us.

Praise be to God!

OPENING PRAYER:

God of Love, God of Jesus, the true vine, we are a work in progress:

water us and feed our hungry souls, so that we may be a productive branch.

Bring us the light we need to bear fruit.

We are a branch of the one vine, of Jesus.

Bend us, shape us, and prune us, for we would wither without you.

Make us stronger in our faithfulness for your son has taught us to love
and shaped us by this love, a love that is warm and true.

We thank you for your presence that is intertwined in our faithfulness, the faithfulness of disciples of
the true vine, Jesus. Amen.

Roxanne Williams, Gathering, LE 2021, page 3. Used with

permission

HYMN Let Us Build a House (MV #1)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

READINGS

Ancient Words

John 15:1-5 (Inclusive Bible)

"I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Contemporary Words

The metaphor of the vine and branches represents the unity of Jesus and the disciples. The unity is a given, but it does not exist apart from the disciples' own participation. Jesus is both the one who

commands them to abide and bear fruit and the one who enables them to do so. Their bearing fruit is proof they are Jesus' disciples. Jesus has linked discipleship with mutual love ... The abiding and bearing of fruit of which Jesus speaks is the mutuality of love among the disciples.

D. Moody Smith.

I am the Vine; a sonnet by Malcolm Guite

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
What might it mean to bide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

REFLECTION I am the Vine

HYMN Soil of God, You and I (MV #174)

"Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
Seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are ... Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
Part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are ... Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
Joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is ... Holy ground.

HONOURING OUR GIFTS

Creator God, root us in you, holding us firmly and nurturing us with hope and love. Make us fruitful branches of Christ, the true vine. Lead us to live in harmony with one another and to help others in need. May your love flow through us as your branches, leading us to share our money, our time and our talents to nurture our world with joy and compassion and justice. It is time to share our offerings.

LITTLE GIFTS OF NEW LIFE

DEDICATION PRAYER

Loving God,

Thank you for the many gifts you shared with us this week.

Thank you especially for the example of Jesus, the true vine, who shows us how to be generous and compassionate. May we walk in the path of Jesus with open hearts and hands, sharing and caring always. Amen

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Communion

This morning we celebrate the feast of communion. In the bread and the juice we remember our roots and celebrate the presence of the risen Christ among us. We are all children of God, and so, all are welcome to eat and drink from this, God's table. If you are long-time member, a visitor, a questioner, a child or an adult, you are welcome. Everyone is welcome at this table.

Come, let us pray:

May the God of creation's choruses be with you! **And also with you!**

God sings of hope and grace to your hearts, people of God!

We open them to be filled with the wonder of love.

God welcomes your songs of praise and joy.

We lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the composer of all!

Maestro of the Universe:

the song began low and quiet, barely disturbing chaos,

...

So, with those who have sung the song of grace and hope in every time and place, and with all who are just learning the words, we lift our voices in praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of beauty and joy.

All the ends of the earth sing praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to sing a new song. Hosanna in the highest!

Holiness is the melody of who you are, Gentle God,
and blessed is the Song of your heart, Jesus Christ.

...

As we learn the new song of love we would go to serve the broken-hearted;

as we are given the instruments of praise,

we would turn them into the means to transform the lives of the hungry,
the homeless, the forgotten, the outcast.

ANTHEM

We Remember Thee" by Jay Althouse

And when our music has ended,

and there is only the plainsong of life forever

in the tender embrace of your peace, we will gather at the Table once again,

hands and hearts, brothers and sisters, joining in the never-ending praise to you,

God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Community Prayers

Prayer of Jesus a paraphrase written by Mark Berry,

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!

Release a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.

Amen.

We have prepared our hearts with thanksgiving and prayer. It is time to share our holy meal together:

Remembering the Last Supper

Sharing the Banquet:

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God,

we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in

courage and peace, singing our praise and love. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have a pastoral care concern, please email Rev. Debbie Stockdale at pastoralcare@sduc.ca or leave a message with the office.

We will be joining the Chinook Winds Region for worship next Sunday at 10:30. Watch for information later in the week.

BLESSING

HYMN I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (VU #575)

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

POSTLUDE