

But far too often we have failed "the vine". We have chosen the gnarled and knotted existence of anger, alienation, and bitterness. We have twisted the words of caring into words of self-preservation and self-interest. O God, prune this bitter direction from our lives. In your forgiving love, heal our tendency to strike out on our own, thinking that we have all the answers. Help us to exhibit new growth and strength of character, that, we may faithfully serve you. Amen

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Kyrie #750

All: **Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance:

God provides His steadfast love to all the people. Receive this healing love and share the good news with all you meet, that God is love and in God there is no darkness or fear. Amen

***Act of Praise Gloria Patri**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Passing the Peace of Christ:

As Jesus Christ loves us as His own, may His love bring peace and comfort to all.

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

1st New Testament Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

2nd New Testament Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

***Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8**

Sermon: "Fruitless Effort!"

Hymn of Preparation: "One Bread, One Body" (vs. 1)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer: "Pray"

All: Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our world_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our souls_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for love and unity_____;

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray, pray, pray.

Pray___, pray___, pray___.

Silent Prayer,

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Our Savior: (Unison)

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 us 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

Invitation to the Offering:

May we open our hearts to provide for others who have encountered hardship, through the love of our Lord.

Recognition of Our Time of Sharing:

Offering Music

***Offertory Response “We Are Giving in the Light of God” (526)**

All: We are giving in the light of God,

We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)

We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,

We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)

***Offering Prayer: (Unison)**

**On this day we thank you, O Lord, for what you have given us!
Your generosity and abundance are ever flowing into our lives.
Through Your actions help us learn to give as we so freely receive.
Guide us dear God to share our bounty as we should, to help those
who have been stricken with hardship and loss. May we bring the
love of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him and live in a
world of darkness. Let us bring hope, love, and light through our
giving. Amen**

***Hymn: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
#472 NCH (vs. 1&2)**

***The Benediction:**

Pastor: May the Lord Bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Let all of God’s children join and say together,

All: Amen

***Call to Worship: (Responsive)**

L: It is not difficult to be God’s beloved child.

P: We are called to obey God’s commandments and live in God’s love!

L: The ways which God ordains are ways of peace and hope.

P: The love of God shall conquer the world.

L: Rejoice, O people of God, for God is near!

P: Praise God for God’s power and might, God’s love and peace.

Amen

***Opening Prayer: (Unison)**

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day, we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love, being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. Amen

***Opening Hymn: “Because He Lives” #364 UMH (vs.1&2)**

Call to Reconciliation:

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

There are several ways to look at vines, O Lord. Some of us look at vines as tangled messes of wood and fiber, twisted, battered, hopelessly knotted. Others of us see vines as delightful reminders of the many ways in which we are connected and interwoven to the main trunk of the plant. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the true vine." The source of our life stems from Jesus. All that we do or say, the directions in which we go, all reflect our anchor in our true vine. (pg. 3)

