

First Church in Pembroke

Sunday Service

June 27, 2021 10:00 AM
Order of Worship

Sermon:

“CONNECTION TO THE VINE

By Rev Dr. Mary Louise Gifford



*“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”*

John 15:5

PRELUDE

MEDITATION PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONTEMPLATION *Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 30)*

One: Sing Praises to God, all you faithful ones

Many: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

One: Where there was no way

Many: God leads us in a new way

One: Where there was no mercy

Many: God surprises us with fresh mercy

One: Where there was weeping

Many: God invites us to step into a new dance.

HYMN *Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb There is a Flower)* (pg4)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Faithful God. You yearn to be so close to us that we can know you in every breath, in every hope, in every relationship. You long for us to trust in your power to bring to life new possibilities where there has been no hope. Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the ways of life and hope into which you are leading us. So may our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:5-11 NRSV (pg7)

SERMON *“Connection to the Vine”*

Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Gifford

HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (pg5)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Christ has taught us that we cannot love both God and wealth. Our hearts will always be focused first on our riches. Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our money, so that our treasure is in heaven and our giving pleases God.



Please make your offering today for the continued call of the mission and ministry to which we have all been called.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The freshness of God's mercy and love, the continued generosity of God's gifts to us, call for thanksgiving and generosity on our part. This church stands because of the faithful generosity of those who came before us, and its ministry grows today because of the hopeful, expectant generosity that lives in us.

Let us gather our gifts together, then, and offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring a brighter day of justice and love, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls.

Strengthen our church so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER IN GENERAL TERM

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE

HYMN Sent Forth by God's Blessing, v. 1 (pg6)

BENEDICTION

Deep in our hearts, we know that we are children of God. Remember who you are, then, and walk in the assurance of God's presence and love with you always, calling you beyond fear into belief and joy. And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you.

POSTLUDE

Credits:

Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the [Worship Elements](#) page of the [Ministry Matters](#) website.

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<http://www.erictonjones.com/2019/06/pastoral-prayer-pentecost-holy-spirit.html>



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561 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

C F Gm/F

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

C C7/F F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;

F Bb F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

Dm Bb F Dm Gm C F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Words and Music: Natalie A. Sleeth, 1930-1992
Words and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

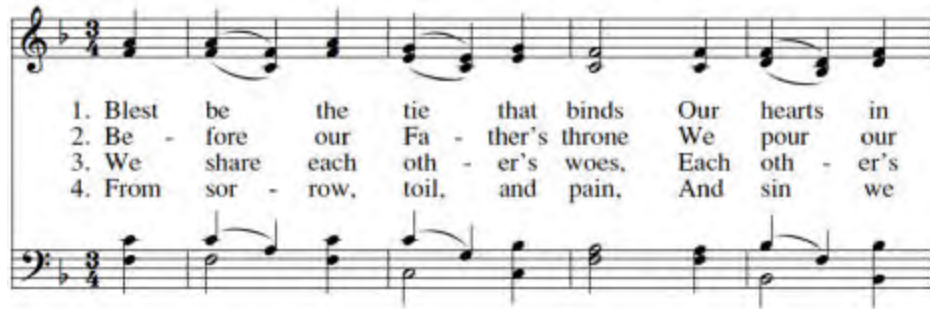
U.S.A.
S. 7. S. 7. D.
PROMISE



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Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, Each oth - er's
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we



Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear; And of - ten for each
 shall be free; And per - fect love and

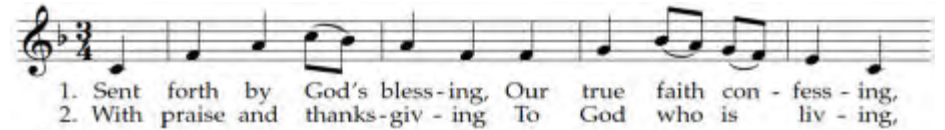


kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joy shall reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817
 Tune: DENNIS, SM, John G. Nageli, 1773-1836, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



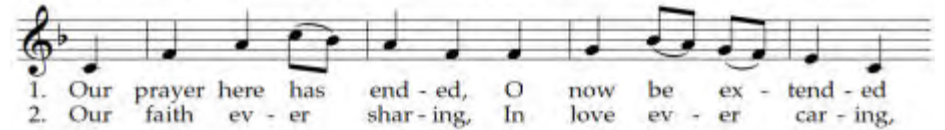
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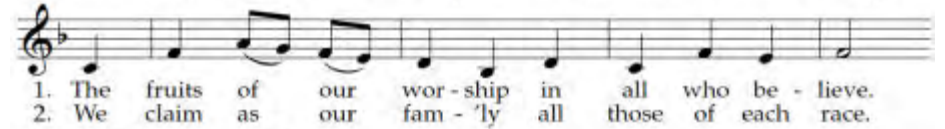
1. Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God who is liv - ing,



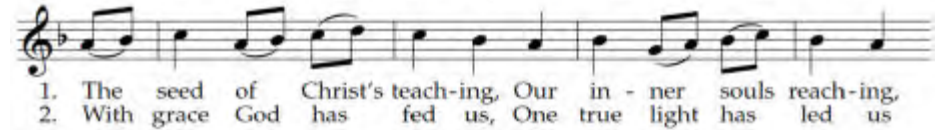
1. The peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 2. The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we em - brace.



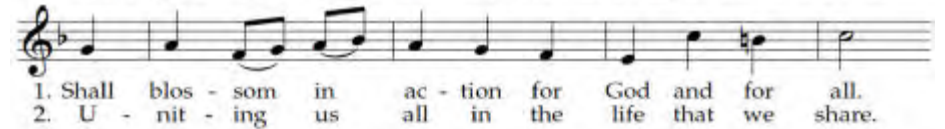
1. Our prayer here has end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed
 2. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



1. The fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve.
 2. We claim as our fam - 'ly all those of each race.



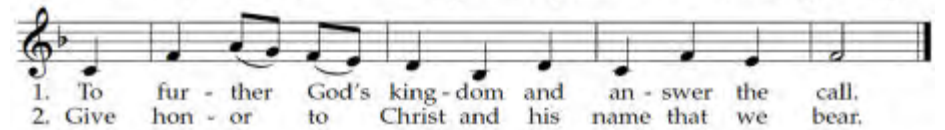
1. The seed of Christ's teach - ing, Our in - ner souls reach - ing,
 2. With grace God has fed us, One true light has led us



1. Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 2. U - nit - ing us all in the life that we share.



1. God's grace shall in - cite us, In love shall u - nite us
 2. Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing



1. To fur - ther God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
 2. Give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Omer Westendorf, alt., 1916-1997
 Alt. by Alan J. Hommerding
 Text © 1964, 1994, WLP

Traditional Welsh folk melody



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⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[a] my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. John 15:5-11 NRSV

Below is a excerpt from a letter sent Tuesday to the Deacons at First Church



Hello fellow Deacons,

Sad and happy news. Mary Beth Courtright submitted a letter of resignation to me this Sunday effective August 15th. While the first reaction was sadness for the loss of talent and what she brought to our church over the last years, emotions turned towards happiness as Mary Beth described her new work environment and what that meant to her. The new church is the 'First Parish in Cohasset', a Unitarian Universalist Church that sits on the Cohasset Commons where the "Witches of Eastwick" was filmed. She was excited most about their children's choir and up for the challenge of their built-in pipe organ. In her letter she stated:

"I cannot thank you enough for the opportunities First Church has provided me. Working here for the last four years has been incredibly satisfying personally, professionally and spiritually."

Everyone, from the ministers to the members of the congregation have all been kind and supportive.

I will especially miss the members of the Chancel Choir and the times we spent together, both in singing and in friendship."

We should acknowledge her service to First Church with a celebration in August. Please reply with suggestions.



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YOU ARE FIRST CHURCH

Please use this space to remark on the service, sermon, church, or life in general send your comments to the address below



Latest news from the Chair of our Search Committee:

The search committee is getting closer to presenting a called Minister to our congregation. A working target date for presentation of the candidate is (hopefully) a Sunday in mid-July. We plan to present some of the candidate's biographical information as early as next Sunday. Background checks are currently in progress. One of the search team members is currently having conversations with third party individuals who know or have had contact with the candidate. Also, at the national level, the NACCC is conducting a search of the candidate's name, and any potential aliases, in various judicial and civic database.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Francine after the church service.



Grab n Go Pancake Breakfast

First Church in Pembroke will be hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast on the FIRST Saturday of the month from July – June from 8-10am in the church Fellowship Hall, 105 Center Street, Pembroke. We be offering a combination of pancakes, sausage, and a choice of beverage all for only \$5. It is a time of good food and fellowship. Seating is limited so we offer Grab & Go goodness. Place your order and soon after pancakes and sausages are all packed up and ready to go. A great way to start your day - and you don't have to cook!

See you July 3rd



Happy Anniversary to Lois & Richard Roberts

Many Joyful returns of the day!

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