



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Prelude

We are Called to Worship - Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit. Come to love one another, for love is of God. Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear. Come! Let us worship!~

Gathering Prayer - Cultivating God, we come as your children to grow and learn, because you are our divine vine grower. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. As your branches, we ask you to nourish us for continued growth. May you transform our hearts and minds as we hear your Word, sing your praises, and engage in holy dialogue through prayer. May you help us to bear good fruit through the vine of Jesus Christ. In Whose name we pray, Amen.+

Song 1

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (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.

We Hear God's Word

John 15:1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

1 John 4:16b-21

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Meditation

Abiding in Love

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation – In gratitude and thanksgiving let us bring our gifts to God.

May Benevolence – Our May Benevolence Offering will go to support the UCC's Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering. This special offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local

congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.

Zion United Church of Christ
8916 E. Troy Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, donate online at zionuccindy.net/donate.

Doxology

We Give Thanks – Generous God, we offer you the fruits of our time, talents and resources in celebration of all that we have been given. Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on the fruits we have given back to help meet the needs of your beloved community. May the gifts nourish and strengthen the community to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.+

We Gather at the Table

Song 2

One Bread, One Body, Zion Virtual Choir



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation— Come to the table of grace, for Christ is the vine, and we are the branches. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to the table of love, for whoever does not love, does not know God. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to the table

of blessing, for Christ is here to abide in us, as we abide in him. Come, Holy Spirit, come.~

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God’s people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, “Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me.” Today, we remember Christ’s body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

Our Confession— Source of love and life, your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but we can’t seem to figure out how. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know you. Show how to abide in your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies your name. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace—When we abide in Christ, we abide in the vine of love and grace. Abide in the vine, and receive mercy beyond measure.~

Blessing Our Meal—Great Vine Grower, we give you thanks that in the fruit of the vine and in the wheat of the field we can taste and see mercy and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit into this meal that it might offer us the nourishment and strength we need to abide in you and to share your love with the whole world. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.=

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – Let us go forth thankful that we have come. Let us go forth renewed in God’s abiding love. And let us go forth rejoicing in the Good News, of Jesus Christ, whose love will never let us go. Amen.~

Postlude