



Easter 5 2021

Gathering

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. **Amen**

Hymn Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise

Prayer

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Confession

Loving God, in whom we abide, we bring before you those things that keep us from you and from serving others:

Forgive us when we are rooted in greed
and make us generous.

Forgive us when we are rooted in indifference
and make us compassionate.

Forgive us when we are rooted in busyness
and make us prayerful.

Forgive us when we are rooted in anything
that is not of you
and make us your disciples today and always. Amen.

God abides in you through Christ!
May God forgive and restore you,
breath and live in you in this moment,
and in the days to come.

Amen

Reading: John 15.1-8

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

Hymn: Restore, O Lord

Reflection:

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Affirmation of faith (Based on Titus 2 and 3)

We believe in God the Father,
who has revealed his love
and kindness to us,
and in his mercy saved us,
not for any good deed of our own.
but because he is merciful.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who gave himself up for us
to free us from our sin,
and set us apart for himself.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
whom God poured out on us generously
through Christ our saviour,
so that justified by grace
we might become heirs
with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

An act of Spiritual Communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

Blessing

May God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;

May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;

And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen**Hymn:** I, the Lord of sea and sky

Alleluia, Alleluia! hearts to heaven and voices raise

Alleluia, Alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the Cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Restore, O Lord

Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord, in all the earth Your fame,
and in our time revive
the church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger, Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord, where we are hard and cold,
in Your refiner's fire
come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, He is reigning here.

Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Graham Kendrick (born 1950) & Chris Rolinson

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I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947)

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