

May 2, 2021

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a
community of disciples
with a heart for God
and hands to help others.

eypc.org

boldface = congregation participates

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. 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. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE: (9:00) *Fairest Lord Jesus*
(11:15) *Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Dale Wood
arr. Art Turner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

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

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

People: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

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

People: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

SONG: *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (written by Thom Shuman)

Leader: There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion are love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

People: Lord Almighty: We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, when you would take them and

toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts. Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

People: As God is in us, so we can live, work, and care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE: *Vines, Branches, and Fruit... oh my!*

Responding to the Word

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG: *Vocalise*

by Rachmaninoff

Going Forth to Serve

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving & **Lord's Prayer**
Words of Institution
Sharing the Meal
Prayer after Communion

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: (9:00) *Jesus, I Come*
(11:15) *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

arr. Lani Smith
arr. Cindy Berry

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Lauren Cochran, Pastor
Lisa Miller, Reader
Dylan Rehm
Darlene Richards
Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor