

Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Live Stream Worship

Meditation Thought

“However strong the branch becomes, however far away it reaches round the home, out of sight of the vine, all its beauty and all its fruitfulness ever depend upon that one point of contact where it grows out of the vine. So be it with us too.

— Andrew Murray, *Holy in Christ*”

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.

**Rises without visible connection;
roots hidden, promise unknown.**

Strong to withstand storms, fragile when plucked too soon.

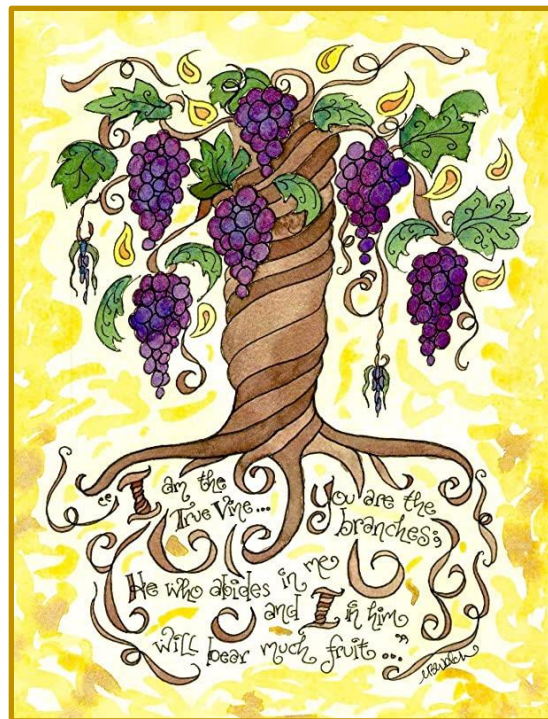
So it is that we grow...

**nourished by invisible connections to the living God,
called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.**

Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” # 304 NCH

**All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all.
Attend the Savior’s sovereign claim, and crown Christ servant of all**

**Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hall;
Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.**



Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.

**All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall,
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.**

**Before the cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees shall fall;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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.
Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.
In your holy name, and in the manner, you taught us, we pray
Abba, Father, whose dwelling is heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Musical Offering *"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"* Dee Laurent, Alto

Scripture Reading John 15:1-8

Message *"The Life of Branches"*

Musical Reflection *"I Believe"* Dee Laurent, Alto

Pastoral Prayer with Shared Joys and Concerns

Communion Song *"Spirit Song"* Jaylene Bengtson

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Adapted from the Uniting Church of Australia.

Centering

Preparing

When our days become over-busy and our spirits are worn and bleached like pieces of driftwood...

May we be flooded with a downpour of encouragement!

When we take things for granted and gratitude goes to sleep...

May a new song be put on our tongues.

When life's abrasive pressures fray us, losing our hold on the Still Center...

May we be told again about sparrows and nesting robins, about daffodils and lilac blossoms, and the Parent who knows our every need.

Silence

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome to share in this meal
with its symbols of God's creative presence.

In company with all who seek nourishment at this table, we come to celebrate community, and to share these life-giving symbols.

Communion Prayer

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Gratitude

We give thanks that we have shared this sacred time and have been refreshed through these simple gifts of bread and cup. We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. May we go forth into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

Hymn *"O God in Whom All Life Begins"* # 401 NCH

**O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
Bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy and peace;
Deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.**

**Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
That we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
That in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.**

**Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
So bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing and pray,
Then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.**

Benediction/Blessing

God Be with You

**God be with you 'til we meet again
By God's counsels guide uphold you
With God's sheep securely fold you.
God be with you 'til we meet again.**

Postlude



Today flowers on the altar are in in loving memory of Nina Heald and Avis Vercoe, given by their daughter and son, Kay and Ray Vercoe.



The red rose on the alter is in honor of Colby Leon Fielders, great grandson of Pat and Rev. David Williams. Colby, son of Katie Farley and Richie Fielder, was born on April 23 prematurely but is doing fine. Please pray for Colby and his parents.

Announcements

Church office hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM – 3 PM

Welcome to our Live Stream Worship! If you are worshipping with us online for the first time or started worshipping with us recently, introduce yourself to us by leaving a little note in the YouTube chat function! Also Let the Church Office know if we can help you in any way! 603-524-0668. Seeking to be the church God desires for us to be!



May Devotionals

We will be meeting Wednesdays through May 19th at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Then taking a break for the summer resuming after Labor Day.

Use the link below to join us each week.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88339636045>

Meeting ID: 883 3963 6045

Prayer Requests: *Please post prayers as early as possible in the comment area of the YouTube page.* In order for Pastor Neil to share them, they need to be received **before the end of the sermon.** Also, you may post your prayers on the Prayer Wall on the website and

throughout the week, please remember to contact Pastor Neil if you have needs to share. While we may not be able to be together and pray by your side physically, we do want to be in prayer with you.

HORTON CENTER 2021

Do you love the outdoors and being involved with a loving and caring community of fun? Then Horton Center is the camp for you! Make lots of new friends and explore all that Horton Center has to offer: hiking, rock climbing, archery, faith formation, swimming, community building, caving, campfires, s'mores, and worship at our beautiful Chapel Rock! Go to the website hortoncenter.org and sign up now!! We already have 4 young people and 3 adult volunteers signed up for this summer! Please contact Diane Tinkham at tinkhams@metrocast.net for more information.



Camperships Fund We truly value this church camp experience, and we want to help, any and all of our young people to go to camp. All campers attending from our Laconia church community will be given \$100 from our Campership fund towards the cost of their week at camp. Please speak to Pastor Neil if your family needs additional support.

You can send a kid to camp!! Would you like to give a child an amazing church camp experience? You are invited to contribute the cost of one week at camp (\$650) to make it possible for a child/youth from our church to attend who might not otherwise be able. Please contact Carolyn to discuss how to make an additional donation to the Campership Fund.