



I AM THE TRUE VINE
YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES
2 May, 2021

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Or Dial by your location +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this fifth Sunday of Easter!

LIGHTING OF THE EASTER CANDLE

Today we light the Easter candle,
proclaiming the transforming power of God.
Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities.
Christ is alive and living among us!

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Teach us to love one another
with that passion which comes
from your overflowing heart, Vine Grower,
so those around us will recognize
us as sisters and brothers,
bound together by your love
not divided by our fears.

Teach us to serve one another
with that compassion which comes
from our broken heart, Vine of our lives,
for the hungry are our brothers,
the immigrants are our sisters,
the homeless are our families.



Teach us include others
with that embracing welcome which comes

from your inviting heart, Fruit-bearing Spirit,
offering forgiveness to those who hurt us,
peace to all filled with hate,
hope to those burdened by despair.

***Teach us to understand all we read and hear,
God in Community, Holy in One!
Amen!***

Adapted, Thom M Shuman

HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling (217 TiS)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

When love awakens in your life,
in the night of your heart,
it is like the dawn breaking within you.

Where before there was anonymity,
now there is intimacy;
where before there was fear,
now there is courage;
where before in your life there was awkwardness,
now there is a rhythm of grace and gracefulness;
where before you used to be jagged,
now you are elegant and in rhythm with your self.

When love awakens in your life, it is like a rebirth, a new
beginning.

John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

PRAYER FOR ANOTHER WAY OF BEING

Dear God,
We pray for another way of being:
another way of knowing.
Across the difficult terrain of our existence
we have attempted to build a highway
and in so doing have lost our footpath.

God lead us to our footpath:
Lead us there where in simplicity
we made move at the speed of natural creatures
and feel the earth's love beneath our feet.
Lead us there where step-by-step we may feel
the movement of creation in our hearts.
And lead us there where side-by-side
we may feel the embrace of the common soul.
Nothing can be loved at speed.

God lead us to the slow path;
to the joyous insights of the pilgrim;
another way of knowing:
another way of being.
Amen.

landings.org.uk Michael Leunig

WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE

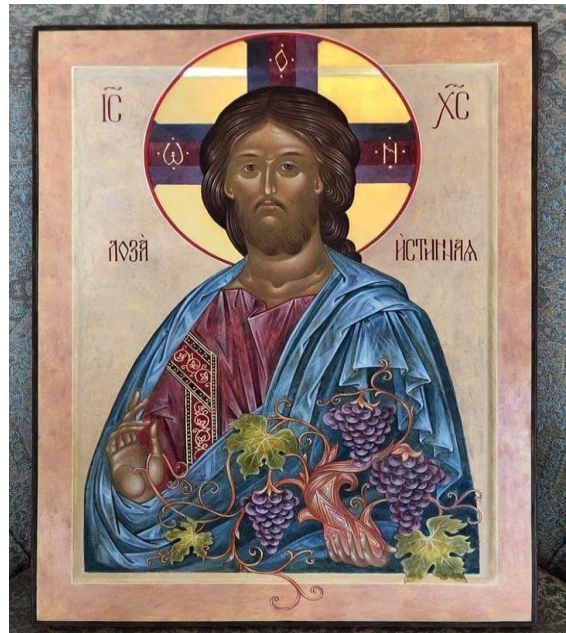
God our mystery,
you bring us to life,
call us to freedom,
and move between us with love.
May we also participate
in the dance of your trinity,
that our lives may resonate with you
now and forever,
Amen!

Janet Morley, All Desires Known.

HYMN *Gather us in (TiS 182)*

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

*Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - the blind and the lame.*



*Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

2. We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
*Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.*

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
*Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS **John 15:1-8** *(Inclusive Text)*

Jesus said to the disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Parent God is the farmer who cultivates and prunes the vines. Every branch in me that bears no fruit is cut away, and every branch that does bear fruit is pruned to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

"Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

"As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remain in me with me in them, bear fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

"Whoever do not remain in me are like branches that have been thrown away- they wither; these branches are collected and thrown on to the fire, and they are burnt.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

"It is to the glory of God, who sent me, that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

As my Parent God loves me, so I have loved you; continue in my love.

John 15: 12: This is my commandment, that you love one another.

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living. Amen!*

SONG

One, U2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtMhPA0Fn2U>

Is it getting better
Or do you feel the same
Will it make it easier on you now
You got someone to blame
You say

One love
One life
When it's one need in the night
One love
We get to share it
Leaves you baby if you don't care for it

Did I disappoint you

Or leave a bad taste in your mouth
You act like you never had love
And you want me to go without
Well, it's

Too late
Tonight
To drag the past out into the light
We're one, but we're not the same
We get to carry each other
Carry each other
One

Have you come here for forgiveness
Have you come to raise the dead
Have you come here to play Jesus
To the lepers in your head

Did I ask too much
More than a lot
You gave me nothing
Now it's all I got

We're one but we're not the same
Well we hurt each other
Then we do it again

You say
Love is a temple
Love a higher law
Love is a temple
Love the higher law
You ask me to enter
But then you make me crawl
And I can't be holding on
To what you got
When all you got is hurt

One love

One blood
One life
You got to do what you should
One life
With each other
Sisters
Brothers

One life
But we're not the same
We get to carry each other
Carry each other
One
One

REFLECTION

SONG *We are your people* (TiS 468)

1. We are your people;
Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us
to all our neighbours
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

2. Joined in community,
treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led

3. Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbours,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

4. Glad of tradition,
help us to see
in all life's changing,

where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

5. Give, as we venture
justice and care
(peaceful, resisting,
waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.

6. Christ, as we serve you
in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.
Brian Arthur Wren

OFFERING

Receive these our gifts, O God.
We place them in your hands and ask you guidance
as we use them to bring compassion into the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Jesus Christ, we pray to you as your grateful friends.
We believe that we face what lies in our future
in your kindly company
and that you will guard and guide us as we go.
***Make clear to us what love might mean
as we live our lives, we pray.***

Open our ears to ideas
which might transform our lives
and those of others who depend on a greater love
than they have ever known.

We pray for these people and causes now:

The people pray

Hear our prayers, brave Jesus, and lead us on.
When you move towards those
on the margins of life,

***call us to be with your there
and help us to meet those
who wait there in longing.***

May we also look at each other in love
and see the faces of your friends here with new eyes.
Invite in us the holding of each other in support
as we enter tougher parts of life
and give us patience when we test that in each other.

***Come, be our friend in every moment, Jesus Christ.
We pray this in faith.
Amen.***

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Host of life, You invite us to this table
to share the fragrance of generosity,
***the gift of your life given for us,
the gifts of bread and cup.***

At this table we give thanks
for justice, love, peace and freedom.

***At this table we give thanks
for friends and strangers.***

At this table all are welcome!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of generosity
and all things new be with you!

And also with you!

We give you thanks, O God, for Jesus Christ!
At Easter we are close to the agony of Good Friday.
To the terrible humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus.
Mocked and driven out,
as your children throughout the world are still hurt today.
Yet that same agony flowered in joy.
The flower grew in the dark of the tomb
and burst open the rock.

In taking bread and wine,
touching, breaking, pouring, drinking,
we know that we enter the holiest mystery
and that by doing so
our hearts will continue to be changed.
We give you thanks for our life together,
the Body of Christ in this place
which claims in faith, against many a doubt,
that risen life lies in our midst
and will stay with us forever.

And so we praise you
with the faithful of every time and place,
joining with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn :

***Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and vulnerability,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.***

THE INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
 "This is my body, which is for you.
 Do this to remember me"
In the same way, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and again giving thanks, said:
 "This cup is the sign
 of my new covenant with you.
 Do this as often as you drink it to remember me."

THE INVOCATION

Be present risen Jesus Christ,
by your Holy Spirit, as you were with your disciples
and make yourself known to us
in the breaking of the bread,
for you live and reign with the Creator
and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take
 is a sharing in the life-blood of Christ.
The gifts of God
 for the people of God.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE

The body of Christ given for us.
The life of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

God of mercy and amazing grace,

On this Easter morning,
we are grateful for your presence, enlivening us.
***We pray your presence will feed and sustain us
to follow in the way of Jesus, Amen.***

HYMN *Feed us now, Bread of life* (TiS, 538)

1. Feed us now, Bread of life,
in this holy meal;
let us know your love anew:
we hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of life,
come and live within;
let your peace be ours today,
Lord Jesus, we pray.

2. Piece of bread, glass of wine:
Lord, this food is good;
love and mercy come to us —
your promise we trust.
Piece of bread, glass of wine;
who can understand
how his mercy works in these?
Yet, Lord, we believe.

3. God is here, O so near,
nearer than our thoughts.
Stay with us where'er we go;
Lord, help us to grow.
God is here, O so near,
in this heaven's meal.
May we always feed on you —
on the bread that is true

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BLESSING

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.



And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window,
and the ghost of loss
gets in to you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green,
and azure blue
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life. ***Amen.***

John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*