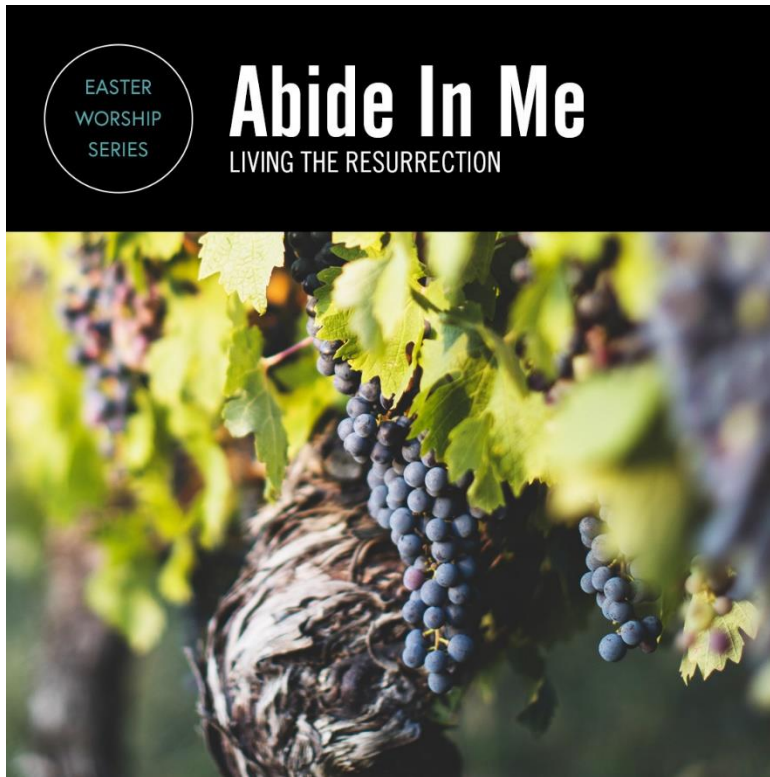


Covenant United Methodist Church

www.covenant-umc.org

20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
(301) 926-8920

May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter
Virtual and Indoor Worship Bulletin



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

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.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

~ written by Joanna Harader (2011) and posted on Spacious Faith.

Opening Hymn

There's a Spirit in the Air
Chancel Choir

Scripture

John 15:1-8 (The Message)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Abide With Me
Duet: Anita Stonebraker and Dave Post

arr. Sally deFord

Sermon

Abide in Me

Pastor Dawn

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Holy Communion

Admitting our Failures and Trusting Forgiveness

Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches." Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus Christ the true vine, with his roots eternally grounded in you. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into him, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth.

Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Please forgive us for the occasions when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring its contamination to the vigor of health.

Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life, for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework you provide, for being content, and sometimes even proud of, a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us to go through some seasons without bearing any fruit.

Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches and cut away our diseased ones. May we remain in Christ and he in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. For your Name's sake. **Amen!**

Forgiveness

Jesus said: "If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you." Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us.

Thanks be to God!

— written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage.

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Chancel Choir

Benediction

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