



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 948-1225 or (603) 948-1179
Email at Office@firstumcrochester.org

9:30 AM Worship Service

April 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(The congregation is invited to stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE: Meditation (Improvisation) Kevin G. Lindsay

CALL TO WORSHIP **

Creator God, Tree of Life,

Root of Love, we live in you.

We grow from you; we are rooted in you;

we live within you.

Christ, our Vine, your life flows in us,

your strength upholds us.

Our blossoming is your praise;

our beauty is your glory.

Holy Spirit, love of God unfolding within us,

you give us life.

Your presence swells our hearts,

and your grace ripens within us.

Alleluia! Living Vine,

fill us with your grace,

that we may bear fruit in your name, to your delight,

for the blessing of all the world. Alleluia!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

GATHER US IN

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light-years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King-dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

**God of life, you are the vine,
and we are your branches.**

But we confess that we have tried to live separate from you.

We have not rooted ourselves in you,

or opened ourselves to your life

and your spirit and your power flowing through us,

your love and your beauty blossoming in us.

Our lives become dry and fruitless.

God of life, we desire to be rooted in you,

joined to you, part of you.

Return us; forgive us,

fill us again with your life,

WORDS OF ASSURANCE **

Our lives are in Christ,

and His life is in us.

Christ, living vine, be our lives,

and we will be your living branch,

your life-giving fruit. Amen.

Thanks be to God

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

[Acts 8: 26-40](#)

(Pg. 893) **

ANTHEM Christ the Vine

Robert J. Powell

Christ, the vine, and God, the gardener,
we, the branches bearing fruit.

We can bring forth shoots of promise
when our lives in Christ take root.

Christ, the fruit from Jesse springing,
you fulfilled the prophet's trust.

And you pray that we, your body,
will fulfill your trust in us.

Christ, may we submit to pruning
that we bear more grapes for wine.

Help us, when we're overburdened,
draw new strength from you, the vine.

You invite us to be partners,
growing Spirit's fruit anew.

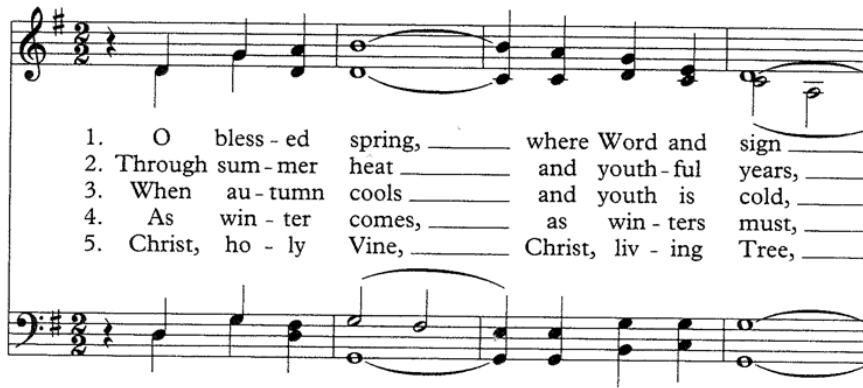
Keep us one in love together:
you in us, and we in you!

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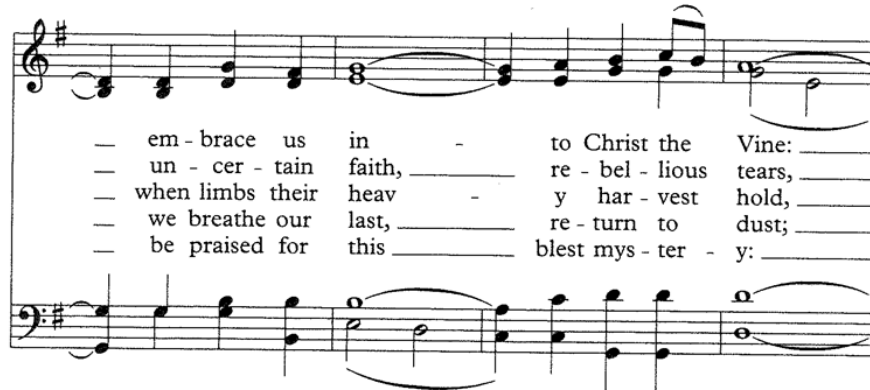
TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT)

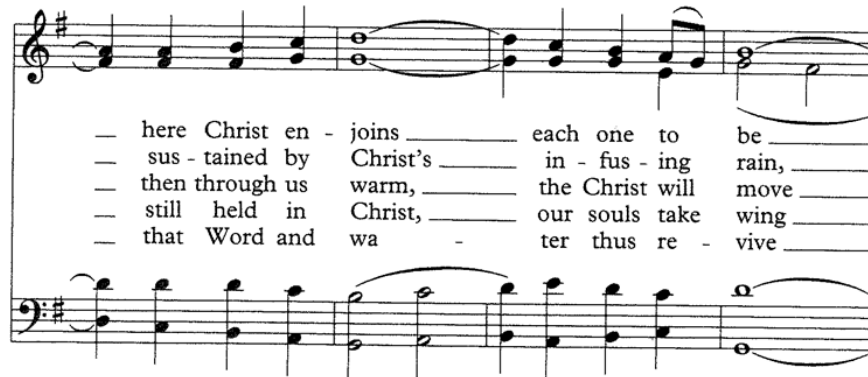
[*HYMN OF PREPARATION](#)



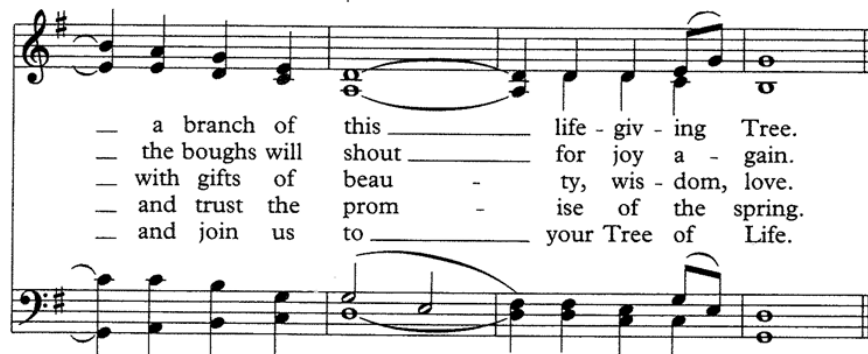
1. O bless - ed spring, _____ where Word and sign _____
 2. Through sum - mer heat _____ and youth - ful years, _____
 3. When au - tumn cools _____ and youth is cold, _____
 4. As win - ter comes, _____ as win - ters must, _____
 5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, _____ Christ, liv - ing Tree, _____



— em - brace us in _____ to Christ the Vine: _____
 — un - cer - tain faith, _____ re - bel - lious tears, _____
 — when limbs their heav - y har - vest hold, _____
 — we breathe our last, _____ re - turn to dust; _____
 — be praised for this _____ blest mys - ter - y: _____



— here Christ en - joins _____ each one to be _____
 — sus - tained by Christ's _____ in - fus - ing rain, _____
 — then through us warm, _____ the Christ will move _____
 — still held in Christ, _____ our souls take wing _____
 — that Word and wa - ter thus re - vive _____



— a branch of this _____ life - giv - ing Tree.
 — the boughs will shout _____ for joy a - gain.
 — with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 — and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 — and join us to _____ your Tree of Life.

WORDS: Susan Palo Cherwien (John 15:5; Rev. 22:14)
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal H. Hopson

GIFT OF LOVE
 LM

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GOSPEL LESSON:

[John 15:1-8](#)

(Pg. 878) **

Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson

For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

70

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men. A - men.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Charles Meineke, 1844

MEINEKE
Irr.

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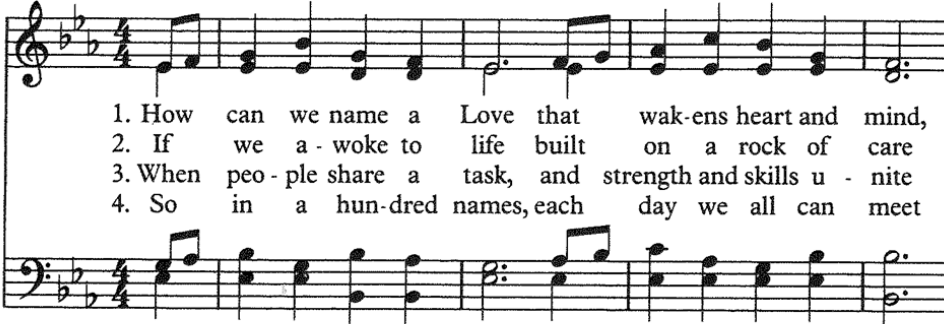
SERMON

“TRANSFORMATION-4
LOVE”

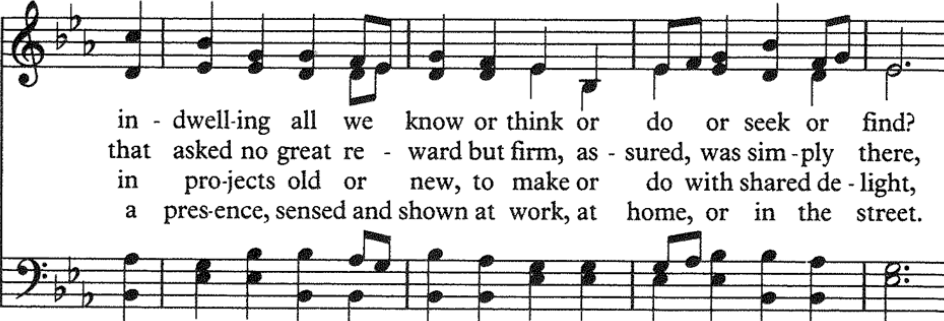
THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

How Can We Name a Love

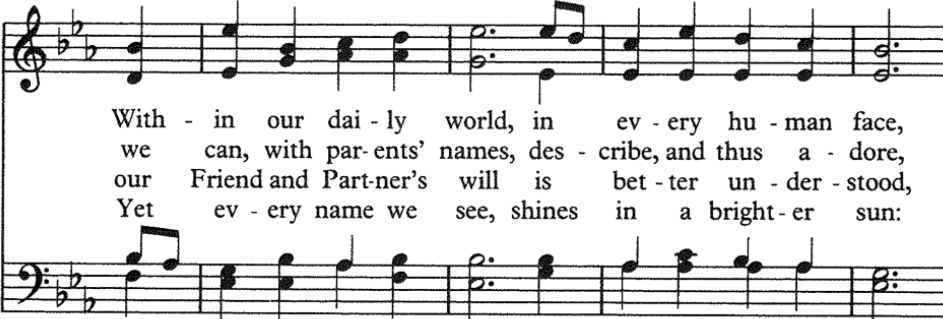
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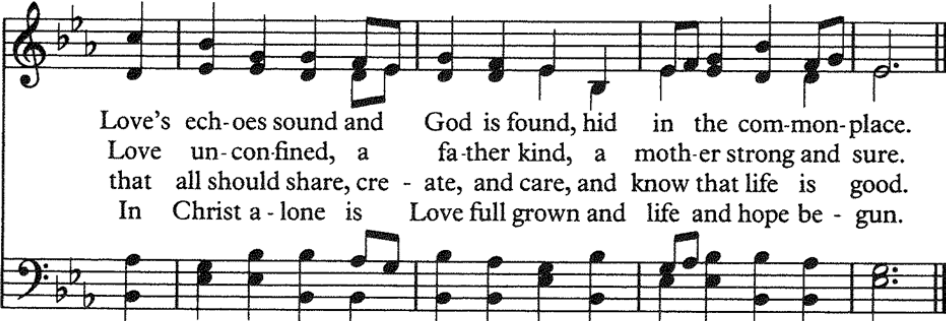
1. How can we name a Love that wak-ens heart and mind,
 2. If we a - woke to life built on a rock of care
 3. When peo - ple share a task, and strength and skills u - nite
 4. So in a hun-dred names, each day we all can meet



in - dwell-ing all we know or think or do or seek or find?
 that asked no great re - ward but firm, as - sured, was sim - ply there,
 in pro-jects old or new, to make or do with shared de - light,
 a pres-ence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.



With - in our dai - ly world, in ev - ery hu - man face,
 we can, with par - ents' names, des - cribe, and thus a - dore,
 our Friend and Part - ner's will is bet - ter un - der - stood,
 Yet ev - ery name we see, shines in a bright - er sun:



Love's ech - oes sound and God is found, hid in the com - mon - place.
 Love un - con - fined, a fa - ther kind, a moth - er strong and sure.
 that all should share, cre - ate, and care, and know that life is good.
 In Christ a - lone is Love full grown and life and hope be - gun.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Shepard, 1915

TERRA BEATA
SMD

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PRAYER SONG

Confitemini Domino / Come and Fill

Ostinato Refrain

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalms 106 and 118; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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INVITATION TO PRAYER:

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (As above)

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

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OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation

Kevin G. Lindsay

DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;



praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

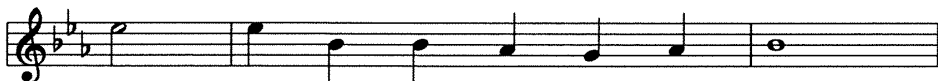
Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)

Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE


*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley


Rowland Hugh Prichard

F C F B \flat /D C 7 /E F C Dm C F/A C 7 /G F F/A



Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry
Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
Fin - ish, then, — Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

7 Gm/B \flat Dm C F C F B \flat /D C 7 /E F C Dm C F/A C 7 /G



earth come down, Fix in us — Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy
trou - bled breast! Let us all — in Thee in - her - it, Let us
life — re - ceive; Sun - den - ly — re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er -
let — us be; Let us see — Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect -

14 F F/A Gm/B \flat Dm C F Am Dm Gm



faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way — the love of
more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to

20 C 7 Dm C 7 /E F F/E Dm Gm/B \flat F/A Gm B \flat C 7 (sus4) C F/A



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love — Thou art; Vis - it
sin - ning; Al - pha and — O - me - ga be; End — of
bless - ing, Serve Thee as — Thy hosts — a - bove; Pray, — and
glo - ry, Till in heaven we take — our place, Till — we

26 Gm C 7 /E F F/A C F/A B \flat F/A B \flat F/C C 7 F



us — with Thy — sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
faith, — as its — be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in — Thy per - fect love.
cast — our crowns be - fore — Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL

87.87 D

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*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Sortie on "HYFRYDOL" *Improvisation* Kevin G. Lindsay

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist:

Rick Mills

Video and Sound Engineer:

Charlie Devito

Altar Flowers:

Donated by Lisa and Fermin Hernandez-Parcell

Image on Cover:

Eastern Orthodox icon of Jesus Christ as the True Vine, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,

TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55553> [retrieved April 27, 2024].

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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_\(Athens,_16th_century\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_(Athens,_16th_century).jpg).

History of the Icon – “Christ the True Vine”: [FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)



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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com

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Looking Ahead

May 5, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

[Acts 10:44-48 / Psalm 98](#)

[1 John 5:1-6 / John 15:9-17](#)

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