**The Dayton Church**

***Where the Welcome is Wide***

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 2, 2021**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**WELCOME**

**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.

**Amen**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus Christ, the true vine,

in our need we come to You,

in weakness,

needing Your strength

for we too easily become dry and lifeless

without Your life-giving spirit.

Jesus Christ, the true vine,

teach us to remain in You

and so to find Your life flowing in us.

**Amen**

**HYMN** *We Know that Christ is Raised*

**We know that Christ is raised  
and dies no more.  
Embraced by death he broke  
its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned  
to blazing joy. Alleluia!  
  
We share by water in  
his saving death.  
Reborn we share with him  
an Easter life  
as living members of  
a living Christ. Alleluia!**

**The Father's splendor clothes  
the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes  
the church of God.  
Baptized we live with God  
the Three in One. Alleluia!  
  
A new creation comes  
to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes  
on flesh and blood.  
The universe, restored  
and whole, will sing: Alleluia!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:  
While we were sinners  
Christ died for us.  
Because we have faith in him,  
we dare to approach God with confidence.  
In faith and penitence,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**PRAYER OF** **CONFESSION**

**Holy and forgiving God, we know we have fallen short.**

**We push back when we could lean in.  
We turn away when we could embrace.  
We stay silent when we could speak.**

**We talk when we could listen.  
We turn away when we could turn toward.  
We remain frozen when we could take action.  
We close doors when we could invite others in.  
We criticize when we could seek understanding.  
We grip on tightly when we could let go.  
We hide it away when we could give it all away.  
Forgive us, God, when we are so human at times,  
And help us to grow into the holy people you have fashioned us to be,**

**Through Christ our Lord.  
And now let us offer up those things that sit on private hearts.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ.  
And Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.  
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
Everything old has passed away;  
See, everything has become new!  
Brothers and sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning; it now and ever shall be.**

**World without end! Amen. Amen.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 15:1-8

Acts 8:26-40

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Rejoicing* Student Pastor Peter Manning

**HYMN**  *I Come With Joy*

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.  
  
I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.  
  
As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.  
  
The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.  
  
Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we’ll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS GIVEN & RECEIVED**

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives  
we offer these gifts to you.  
Through your blessing and our willingness to share,  
may these offerings become a source for hope and love  
in this church family, and in the community beyond us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine in the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**In quietness my Lord conferred  
two truths I now declare:  
no greater love than God’s is known;  
no power can compare.**

**God is my rock; God is my strength;  
God is my salvation,  
my refuge, my abiding peace.  
I shall not be shaken.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Wendi L. Werner, pastor

Mr. Peter Manning, student pastor

Mr. Noel Werner, accompanist

Elder Sophie Werner, technical support

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