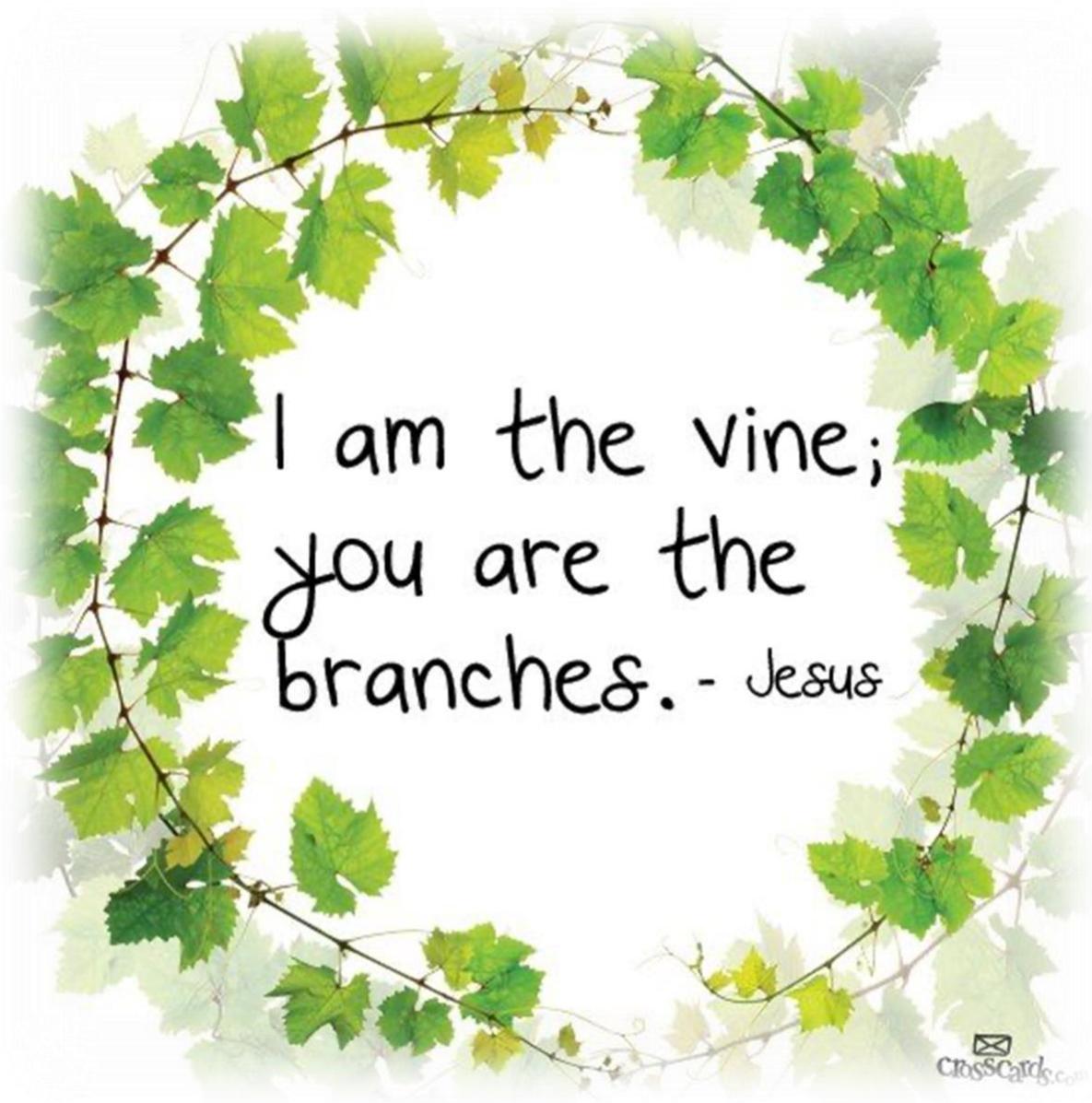


ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Contemplative Prayer Service  
May 1, 2021



I am the vine;  
you are the  
branches. - Jesus

## WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us.  
We hope and pray this time will be one of solace, comfort,  
and strengthening for your soul,  
or whatever it is you need from Christ in this very moment.  
You may want to settle into a comfortable place  
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the holy.

## WE GATHER

We gather in the heart of the Risen Christ.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

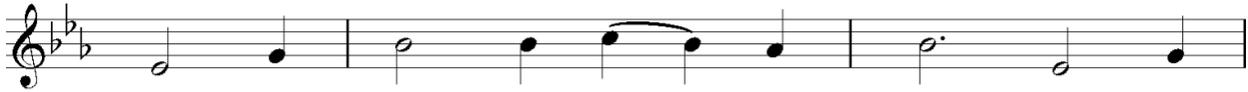
Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**And blessed be God's Kingdom of love, now and forever. Amen.**

## OPENING COLLECT

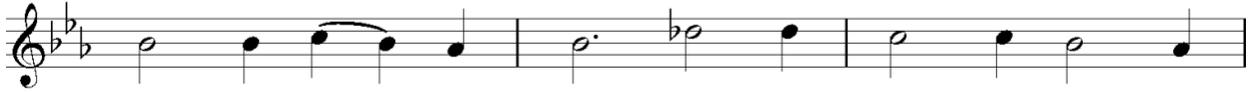
God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life:  
Grant us so perfectly to know  
your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life,  
that we may steadfastly follow his steps  
in the way that leads to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

## A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
 and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
 so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
 Who can describe his generation?  
 For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being

baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **PSALM 22: 24-30**

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

### **A READING FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER OF JOHN**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Canticle N, Enriching our Music*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.  
Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love.  
In this the love of God was revealed among us,  
that God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might love through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us  
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.  
Beloved, since God loved us so much,  
we ought also to love one another.  
For if we love one another, God abides in us,  
and God's love will be perfected in us.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

## HOMILY

### WE ENGAGE IN PRAYER, OFFERING OUR NEED FOR GOD’S HEALING GRACE

Let us pray.

O living Christ, make us conscious now of your healing nearness.

### A QUIET MUSICAL OFFERING

*Taizé #41* Veni Sanctus Spiritus

Touch our eyes that we may see you; open our ears that we may hear your voice; enter our hearts that we may know your love. Overshadow our souls and bodies with your presence that we may partake of your strength, your love, and your healing life. **Amen.**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers, silently or aloud. (*pause*)

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;  
**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;  
**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;  
**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;  
**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled,  
that they may be made whole;  
**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely,  
anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of Your presence;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the Grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:

**You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**And in your light, we see light.**

Hear us, O Lord of life:

**Heal us, and make us whole.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Wisdom of God  
the Love of God  
and the Grace of God  
strengthen you  
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,  
in the name of the Holy Trinity.

**Amen.**

## **TAIZE CHANT**

*#44 Give peace*

Da pacem cordium. Da pacem cordium. Da pacem. Do pacem.

Give peace to ev-'ry heart. Give peace to ev-'ry heart.

Give peace, Lord. Give peace, Lord.

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**