

New Life Presbyterian Church
5th Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Prelude

At the Cross
Reawaken Hymns
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Prayer

Quote of the day

A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

— Saint Basil

Announcements

COVID protocol – If you get it and you have been to church, please let us know.

Happy May Birthdays!



Call To Worship

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.

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 God's love is perfected in us.

Come, let us worship and celebrate God, who is love.

Call to Confession

Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all of its fullness, offering us renewal and refreshment, hope, forgiveness and steadfast love. Let us confess our sins, first individually in silence and then together as one family in Christ. Let us pray.

Silence

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have not loved as we ought. We have used love as if it was to be hoarded rather than shared freely. We have set limits on something that not ought to have borders. We have guarded how we love others instead of sharing Your grace. Forgive us for not loving as You have first loved us—without condition. Forgive us for determining who is and who is not worthy of love, when You are Love. Forgive us for not following the example of our Savior, who became last of all and servant of all, who laid down his life for us all in the name of love. Call us into Your way, that by caring for the most vulnerable, we care for all. By loving those who are different than us, we love ourselves best. By sharing in this love, we reflect Your image in us. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to us in the name of love, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The resurrection of Jesus shows us the grace of God is stronger than death and the love of God has no boundary. The steadfast

love of God endures forever, God's grace abundant. Know you are God's beloved.

Friends believe in the promise of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ Jesus

Peace be with you
And also with you.

Hymn

Love Divine

Verse 1

Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of heaven 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 every trembling heart

Verse 2

Breathe O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every 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

Verse 3

Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Nevermore Thy 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

Verse 4

Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder love and praise

CCLI Song # 2646581

Charles Wesley

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Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God *is* love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply

within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

John 15:1-8

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

Sermon

The Fruit of Love
Pastor Riz



Celebrating the Feast of Love—Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Lives & Gifts to God

Special Music

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the light to a world in darkness. We humbly acknowledge your gift as an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Go now, and love one another. Keep the commandments, abide in love.

We will go forth in love!

Go forth to serve: share in the mission of life, bear fruit that will last:

We will go forth in peace and justice!

Let us go forth in peace to witness to our community and world, that Christ is alive!

We will go forth as your friends, rejoicing!

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;

May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;

And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

God is love, and love is how we build the kingdom of God. Amen.

Postlude

The Blessing - Sweden