

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- "For the Beauty of the Earth" / Martha Sobaje----- Dr. Jessica Scott
Acolyte, Kate Thrush

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and sit with me; we shall study the Word.

People: **Together we shall read and understand.**

Leader: Come and kneel with me; we shall break the bread.

People: **Together we shall eat and be satisfied.**

Leader: Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters.

ALL: **TOGETHER WE SHALL RISK, AND, BEHOLD, WE SHALL BE CHANGED.**

INVOCATION: *(unison)*

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life.

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days.

Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.

In your holy name, we pray. 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 turns to blazing joy. 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!

SCRIPTURE LESSON ----- John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING -----“Five Bagatelles – No. 3 – Carol”----- Gerald Finzi

Geneva Brown, clarinet; Brett Miller, piano

SERMON -----“Connections”----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

INVITATION

CONFESSION (*unison*)

Divine Gardener, you have planted the true Vine in our world and have sustained living branches by the Spirit. We confess that we have not always stayed connected to the true Vine that brings life, healing, and wholeness to your world. We confess that we do not always readily heed your call to reach out to the marginalized, stand up against injustice, or proclaim the Good News of your love. Forgive us Lord and empower us to be fruit bearers for your kingdom. In Jesus name, Amen.

PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! God is love, and God’s love was disclosed to us in the sending of the divine Son into the world to bring us life.

People: **The divine Son, Jesus Christ, is the remedy of the defilement of our sins.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. . . .

. . . .and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN; CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,

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

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP



HYMN ----- "All Who Hunger"

All who hunger, gather gladly; Holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, All around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- "Praeludium in D" / J.K.F. Fischer----- -Dr. Jessica Scott



Mountaineer Food Bank Food Giveaway

FUMC was awarded a grant by Antero (through M.F.B.) for \$3,200 in the form of a credit for groceries, to be used for "hunger relief" projects.

**On Sat., May 15, from 10 to 12, in our church lot, we will have a HUGE food distribution.
And we need help!**

- greeting people in cars and distributing & recording information
- setting up and cleaning up
- helping inside and outside with distribution of bags

What a wonderful ministry for us to help with the hunger problem in our community.
If you have questions, or to sign up, please call Cheryl Moorhead 304-677-9859

The Upper Room for May/June is available.

Issues are located on the credenza in the narthex; or contact us at cfumc@citynet.net or 304-623-3397 to arrange for a copy to be mailed to you.

