



28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Easter 5

**Greeter:** **Betty**

**Meditation Song: As the deer pants** (TIS 703)  
*(please remain seated)*

As the deer pants for the water  
so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:

You alone are my strength and shield;  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you

(repeat)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

As we celebrate the risen Christ,  
May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to celebrate that Christ has risen!  
**Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!**

**Acknowledgement of First Peoples:**

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through story, custom and ceremony. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and any Aboriginal people here with us today.

**We pray that we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.**

**Call to Worship:**

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We long to abide in Christ –

**and so we come.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We long to be spiritually vibrant and alive –

**and so we come.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We long to be faithful disciples -

**and so we come.**

We gather today to worship the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**As God lovingly tends us, may we grow wildly and freely.**

***Opening Prayer:***

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: Your words to me are life and death (TIS 430 tune TIS 129)**

1 Your words to me are life and health;  
pour strength into my soul;  
enable, guide, and teach my heart  
to reach its perfect goal.

2 Your words to me are light and truth;  
from day to day they show  
their wisdom, passing human thought,  
as in their truth I grow.

3 Your words to me are full of joy,  
of beauty, peace, and grace;  
from them I learn your blessed will,  
through them I see your face.

4 Your words you are perfected in One,  
yourself, the living Word;  
within my heart your image print  
in clearest lines, O Lord

**Prayer of Confession**

In our prayer of confession, we trust that no matter what we do or don't do,  
this story begins and ends with love. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus the true vine,  
with his roots eternally grounded in you.

We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into him,  
to be branches on a vine which bears  
the loveliest of all the fruits of the earth.

Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Please forgive us when we grow away from you,  
when we neglect to draw deeply on the water of life,  
when we wander instead of grow  
and for the apathy which grows little fruit.

Have mercy on us.  
Heal and train our wandering tendrils,  
prune our unfruitful branches  
and cut away our diseased ones.  
May we remain in Christ and he in us,  
through all the changing seasons of life.  
Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which is our true purpose.  
For your Name's sake.  
**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance:**

Jesus says: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

Hear then the words of Jesus to us:  
'Your sins are forgiven'.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Peace:**

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

### **Hymn: When I needed a neighbour (TIS 629)**

1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?
  
2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

3. I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

4. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

5. When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

6. When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?  
When they put me in prison, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

7. Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,  
wherever you travel, I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

**Moment for the young at heart: Tonia**

**Bible Reading: Rick**

#### **Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 22 shows a drama, an inner movement that transports the reader to a new place, an unanticipated destination. The reader is taken on a pilgrimage from sorrow to joy, from desolation to hope, from cross to glory.

#### **Psalm 22:25-31 (The Message)**

Here in this great gathering for worship  
I have discovered this praise-life.  
And I'll do what I promised right here

in front of the God-worshipers.  
Down-and-outers sit at God's table  
and eat their fill.  
Everyone on the hunt for God  
is here, praising him.  
"Live it up, from head to toe.  
Don't ever quit!"

<sup>27-28</sup> From the four corners of the earth  
people are coming to their senses,  
are running back to God.

Long-lost families  
are falling on their faces before him.  
God has taken charge;  
from now on he has the last word.

<sup>29</sup> All the power-mongers are before him  
—worshiping!

All the poor and powerless, too  
—worshiping!

Along with those who never got it together  
—worshiping!

<sup>30-31</sup> Our children and their children  
will get in on this

As the word is passed along  
from parent to child.

Babies not yet conceived  
will hear the good news—  
that God does what God says.

### **John 15:1-8 (NRSV)**

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will

be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Ron**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.**

**Now and forever.**

**Amen**

**Community News:**

**Offering Prayer:**

God of great gifts:  
With resurrection humming in our hearts,  
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.  
We joyfully give these gifts to you,  
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,  
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.

**Amen.**

**Song: The Summons – John Bell**

1. Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

### ***Benediction & Blessing:***

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.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

### **3-fold-Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers: Heather**

#### **Acknowledgements:**

*Image: based on <http://www.thadenmosaics.com/wallmosaics.html>*

*Acknowledgement: based on Assembly Working Group*

*Call to worship: <https://spaciousfaith.com/2011/02/02/wednesday-worship-pieces-3/>*

*Opening prayer — <http://www.ministrymatters.com/#axzz2WhKTr5N6>*

*Prayer of confession – based on*

*[https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship\\_resources/i-am-the-vine/](https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship_resources/i-am-the-vine/)*

*Benediction: [https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship\\_resources/i-am-the-vine/](https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship_resources/i-am-the-vine/)*