

DUBLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I AM Statements in the Gospel of John

I AM THE TRUE VINE



*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.
John 15:1-2*

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

THE LORD'S DAY

February 12, 2017

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Jerry Ray

WELCOME AND RENEWAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Minister: God is good *People:* All the time.

Minister: And all the time *People:* God is good!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.

People: **Rises without visible connection;**

Liturgist: roots hidden, promise unknown.

People: **Strong to withstand storms,**

Liturgist: fragile when plucked too soon.

People: **So it is that we grow...**

Liturgist: nourished by invisible connections to the living God,

People: **called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.**

Liturgist: As the people of God we come together to worship God, the one True Vine. Let us worship the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN

"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

#366

(*Indicates where it is appropriate, but not necessary, to stand.)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart. But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always. Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray saying,

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Child brings water up front and pours it into the font.)

People: Jesus said: ***“I am the vine, you are the branches.”*** We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus Christ 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 earth. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Please forgive us for the occasions when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring its contamination to the vigour of health. Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life, for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework you provide, for being content, and sometimes even proud of a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us go through some seasons without bearing any fruit.

Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline 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 are our true purpose and joy. For your Name's sake. Amen!

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

(Lifting water from the font or motioning toward it)

Minister: Jesus said: “If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.” Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*GLORIA PATRI

#581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister: Since God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ our Lord, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.** *(Please share this peace with those around you.)*

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Love Grows Here”

Don Besig

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MOMENT

Rev. Jennifer Eastman Hinkle

Presentation of Bibles

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

People: Startle us, O God, with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love. Speak your word to us; silence in us any voice but your own and be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds and our hearts, to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

“Isaiah 65:17-25”

(Pew Bible, O.T., p.696)

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heaven and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant **vineyards** and eat their fruit.
²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³ They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.
²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

“John 15:1-17”

(Pew Bible, N.T., p.109)

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. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not

call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

SERMON ***“I AM THE TRUE VINE”*** Rev. Jennifer Eastman Hinkle

*SERMON HYMN “In Christ There Is No East or West” #317

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever. Amen.**

RESPONDING TO GOD

OFFERING

Call to Offering

Offertory Music

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

“There’s a Song of Love in My Heart”

arr. Mark A. Miller
#606

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

*HYMN ☩

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#306, vs. 1-4

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Lowell Mason

POSTLUDE

“Near to the Heart of God”

arr. Lani Smith

Please stay to enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service of worship.