



Vestal United Methodist Church

May 2, 2021



Welcome Prelude

Call to Worship

Stand and Praise God!

* Hymn of Praise 89 UMH

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

* Sharing Signs of Peace

Gathering Prayer [all read together]

by Bruce Prewter

Look upon us, loving Savior, sift our thoughts and assess our feelings. Deal firmly with those things that have inhibited our love. Whatever you see as self-righteous, censure; as twisted, straighten; as heartless, soften; as fruitless, prune; as infected, cleanse. Flood your relentless Spirit through our whole being, sweeping away guilt and its lethargy, and by the saving grace of Jesus Christ heal the hidden springs of our personality. Thank you, Holy Friend, for answering our prayers before we get around to asking them, and for doing much more than we ask or think. Through your Son and our Savior we pray. Amen.

Silence

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem

Your Love for Me

David Black

DON HARRIS & GARY SADLER

First Scripture Reading

from I John 4

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 God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and the Lord's love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in the Lord and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

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 God 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 the Lord is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Children's Message

* Hymn 2230 FWS

Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessings

Second Scripture Reading

John 15:1-5

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.

Message

The Box in the Back in the Corner in the Dark

Sharon Harris

Joys & Concerns

Celebrating Gordie Vinson's 15 years of Employment

Jeff Schake

Pastoral Prayer

Living the Faith

Offering Ourselves to God

Tammy Nist and Dan Rosenau

* **Hymn 2223 FWS**

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational Response**

He Lives [refrain only]

Postlude

Opening Hymn 89: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907

MUSIC: Ludwig von Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

Hymn 2230: Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green

MUSIC: W. Daniel Landes

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Music © 1997 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

1. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
on the love that makes us one;
here, as Christians, to acknowledge
you are Lord, and you alone.

2. God of love, unless you bless us
how can we each other bless?
Only as you live within us
is there depth of happiness.

3. May our loving be a sharing
of the gifts we each possess;
may no failure of forbearance
turn our love to bitterness.

4. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
in the presence of our friends:
Grant us joy that blesses others,
grant us love that never ends.

Response 310: He Lives, refrain

WORDS & MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

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He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Closing Hymn 2223: They'll Know We Are Christians

WORDS & MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.