

God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hymn *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love* STF2223

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered,

Notes

thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *from the Confession of 1967*

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that he will consummate his work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. Amen.

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

+Response *Give Thanks* STF2036

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Going into the World

+Hymn *God, Bless Your Church With Strength!* #418

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church

April 29, 2018

+Stand as you are able

Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ candle

+Call to Worship

Leader: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

People: We have come to stand on holy ground!

Leader: We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming—redbud trees weeping cherry trees, daffodils, tulips and wild violets...

People: We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

Leader: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters—the Ohio and Licking Rivers, Doe Run and Prisoners Lake and other area lakes, Dry Creek and Banklick Creek...

People: We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit!

All: We have come to experience the God of Creation is this sacred space.

(from Creation Justice Ministries Earth Day Liturgy 2018)

+Opening Prayer

Let us pray: **Creating God, Accept our offerings of praise and worship today as we acknowledge our place in your creation and our identity as part of your church in the world, as we acknowledge our identity as the body of Christ. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together: *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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

+Hymn *Creator of Mountains* STF2061

Call to Confession

What does it mean to “abide” in God? What does it mean that God “abides” in the followers of Christ?

Prayer of Confession

You are the vinegrower, O God, and we are the branches of the body of Christ. We confess that sometimes we are not very fruitful; we hoard our blessings and our love as if they will disappear if we share them. Have mercy on us, O God; give us strength and generosity of spirit that will cause us to be fruitful and useful in your world. (moment of silence.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: The good news is this: In Jesus Christ we have a pattern for living that will heal our own hopelessness and repair the brokenness of the world.

P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (Refrain only, 2x) #106*

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *Hold You in the Palm of His Hand* - Hayes

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. May we be led by it to follow your way. Amen.

What kind of fruit have you borne for God's kingdom? Are there other types of fruit that God might want you to bear?

Scripture Readings

I John 4:7-21 ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in