

Valley Christian Church

Mother's Day

May 10, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: In the beginning, you gave birth to the world,
O God.
- People: You loved your creation and called it and us
"good".
- Leader: Through the scriptures of the old testament and
the stories of Jesus in the new testament, you
showed us that your love for us was like that
of a mother – caring, protecting, nursing,
nurturing, challenging, calling us to grow to
love you and each other.
- People: Sometimes we have followed your example of
love.
- Leader: Particularly on this day we remember those
women who have nurtured us with your love,
those living and those who have gone on to
glory.
- People: We remember mothers, grandmothers, god
mothers, aunts, teachers, mentors and friends.
- Leader: On this day and all days turn our mothers,
fathers and family again to your love and care.
- People: As receivers of your incredible love and care,
nudge us to grow into your likeness and to
share that love with the world

HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*

INVOCATION

Almighty God, you have set us as individuals in
families. May our families be strengthened by your
spirit. Keep us close together so that no challenge can
separate the love that unites us. On this Mother's Day,

we pray that you will turn our hearts in tenderness
toward one another. In the name of Jesus who came
into the little family of Nazareth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-16

MEDITATION

"I am the Vine"

See Insert for Meditation

HYMN

"In the Garden"

*I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And he walks with me
And he talks with me
And he tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known*

*He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing
And he walks with me
And he talks with me
And he tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Thank you God, for the gift of mothers. We praise you
for the women who gave us birth. We praise you for the
women who held us. We celebrate the women who
cared for us, tending to our needs. There is something
about the gift of a mother that is irreplaceable, and we
are grateful for our mothers and for the women in our
lives who have been like mothers.
Please be present with those who have lost their
mothers. Speak tenderly to them your words of comfort
and promise for everlasting life. Be present with
mothers and children who relationships are broken.
Please bring together that which has been torn apart.
And be near to women who never had children of their
own but have been like mothers to others.

We remember O God, that you are our ultimate parent – our mother and our father. You care for us better than any earthly parent. You give us breath. You watch over us. You journey with us no matter where we go. You forgive us. And you provide us with a home where we can rest eternally. To all this we say thank you God. Amen.

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

As we come to our table in our homes today, bless us with your hope, fill us with your courage, and grant each one of us your peace.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

“Beneath the Forms of Outward Rite”

*Beneath the forms of outward rite
thy supper, Lord, is spread
in every quiet upper room where fainting souls are fed.*

*O Master, through these symbols shared,
thine own dear self impart,
that in our daily life may flame the passion of thy heart.*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord’s Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, “Take eat and take drink.”

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail.
Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

O God, bless our offering today for the hungry, the homeless as well as the spiritually hungry and the spiritually homeless. In the name of Jesus we share and pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the blessings of God warm you like the sun of springtime. May the love of Christ wash over you like a gentle spring rain. May the joy of the spirit raise you to new heights like the beautiful birds of spring flying in the sky. Amen.

Turn unto the

Lord your God:

*for he is gracious
and merciful,*

*slow to anger,
and of great kindness.*

Joel 2:13

MEDITATION

Sunday, May 10, 2020

“I am the Vine”

On a Thursday evening, Jesus met with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem for the Lord’s Supper. After the Lord’s Supper, Jesus and His disciples left and began to walk to the Garden of Gethsemane where He would spend an evening in prayer.

As they walked along, Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches.” (John 15:5) Often Jesus used something that His disciples could see in order to help them understand spiritual truth. So, in this walk to the Garden of Gethsemane which was probably filled with grapevines along the trail, Jesus could have said look at those grapevines. They are a reminder that “I am the vine and you are the branches.”

Because Jesus always used what was familiar like grapevines to teach a lesson, I wonder what He would have said if He had spoken to our church today. Perhaps Jesus would have said something like this:

“I am the electricity and you are the appliance. Abide in me and I will in you. As the appliance cannot work without electricity, no more can you work unless you abide in me. I am the electricity and you are the appliance. He who abides in me, and I in him, will be able to do many things, but without me, you can do nothing.”

Whether we think in terms of the vines and branches of the first century or the appliances of the twenty-first century, Jesus was saying to His disciples and to us that He is our source of strength and power.

Branches do not grow grapes when they are separated from the vine. The appliance will not operate unless it is plugged into the outlet of the wall. Therefore, men and women do not live as Christians unless they are united to Christ. Apart from him, we can do nothing. Our only hope as individual Christians and as a

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church, is to be part of the vine, and to receive life and strength from Jesus.

Max Lucado, in his book, “When God Whispers Your Name” puts the importance of being connected to Jesus like this: take a fish and place him on a beach. Watch his gills gasp and scales dry. Is he happy? No! How do you make him happy? Do you cover him with a mountain of cash? Do you get him a beach chair and sunglasses?

Of course not! Then how do you make him happy? You put him back in his element. You put him back in the water! He will never be happy on the beach simply because he was not made for the beach.

Indeed, the same is true for you and me. We will never be happy away from the One who made us and saved us. Just like a fish was made to live in water, we were made to live in close fellowship with our Lord, and nothing can take the place of that.

That is what this passage in John 15 of Jesus being the vine and we are the branches is all about. For us to stay connected and bear fruit. For that is our purpose in life to bear fruit of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness”. (Galatians 5:22)

One more thing before we are finished. The branch in Jesus’ words has no choice about its attachment to the vine. This is not the case with our relationship to Jesus. We have a choice. Jesus, therefore, calls upon you and me to be joined to Him. Jesus calls us, “Abide in me, and I in you.” May you and I be a part of that true vine which is our Lord Jesus Christ.

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