

Sunday 13th June 2021 - Ordinary 10th (MHA Sunday)

Revd Jenny Pathmarajah

We invite you to spend a few moments with God, using this short act of worship that has been prepared for you to use knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Music –

Spirit of the Living God

Welcome

Call to worship:-

Loving God, we have come to worship you. Help us to remember that you are here with us. May we pray to you in faith, sing your praise with gratitude, and listen to your word with eagerness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stf 409 Let us build a house

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen (born 1952) © 1994 GIA Publications Inc. 7404 S. Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL60638, USA Used By Permission. Calamus Licence No. A-734967

Prayers of adoration:-

Holy God To you alone belong glory, honour and praise. We join with the hosts of heaven as we worship. You alone are worthy of adoration from every mouth, and every tongue shall sing your praise. You create the earth by your power; you save the human race in your mercy, and renew it through your grace. To you, loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honour and raise no and forever. Amen.

Praise be to you O God, The maker of the universe, by whose wisdom we are created and sustained. Praise be to you O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ By whose love we are redeemed and forgiven. Praise be to you O God, The source of all holiness, By whose Spirit we are made whole and brought to perfection. Praise be to you O God Source of all being, Eternal Words and Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Stf 495 Dear Lord and Father

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

3 O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4 With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of thy call,
As noiseless let thy blessing fall
As fell thy manna down.

5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease; Take from
our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

6 Breathe through the heats of our
desire Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind
and fire, O still small voice of calm!

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
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Reading:- John 15:1-8

The Vine and the Branches



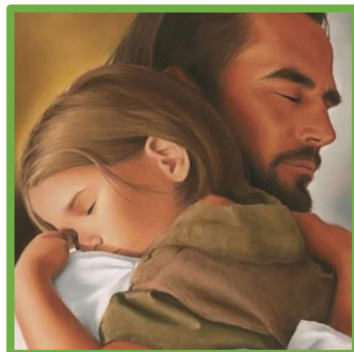
¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Stf 443 Come let us sing

- 1 Come let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came; - came with the helpless
and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
Home! weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 4 Come to my heart, O Thou wonderful
love, - come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of Thee.

*Robert Walmsley (1831-1905) Used By
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Sermon:-

A newspaper reporter went to interview a successful small business owner. "How did you do it?" he asked. "How did you make all this money?" "I'm glad you asked," the businessman said. "It's a great story. When my wife and I married, we started out with a roof over our

The reporter thought this would be a great human interest story, so he asked excitedly, "Then what?" The businessman replied, "Then my father-in-law died and left us £20 million".

The businessman prospered not because of his own ingenuity, but because he was connected. What does it mean to be connected? Well, it means three things.

First, it means that we have power. When we say we have connections, it means that we have access to power and wealth. It means that we can get things done. When we are connected to each other through our faith in Jesus Christ, it means that we are strong and can get things done. Our faith gets nourishment and strength from both Christ and our fellow believers. As our faith strengthens, it bears fruit in the form of bringing benefit to ourselves and to the lives of others while doing God's work in the world.



heads, some food in our pantry, and five pounds between us. I took £1 coin, went down to the grocery store, bought a bag of apples, shined it up, and sold it £2. "

"What did you do then?" the reporter asked. "Well," he said, "I bought two more bags of apples, shined them up, and sold them for £4."



The second thing that being connected means is that we have a presence. We are not alone. Someone shares our lives. Someone is there for us, just like all of you are here for each other. If we abide with Christ, it means that we have a close, daily relationship with him. Thus, we become a branch of the vine called Christianity—a branch that bears fruit. As such, our wants will be his wants, we will pray according to his words, and he will be pleased with our prayers.

Finally, being connected means is that we will live a productive life. A vine and its fruit point to the giftedness of discipleship while also indicating the substance that will sustain new branches and abundant fruit.

The relationship between the vine and the branches, as well as the connection between source and fruit, lies in the love between God and Jesus, and between Jesus and us. In other words, we are to love one another as Christ has loved us

We can only be grafted to Christ by cutting our attachment to our way of life and its creature comforts just like a gardener prunes bushes to make them grow better.

The useless branches have to be removed in order to save and strengthen the stronger ones, much

like a surgeon cuts off a person's diseased limbs in order to save his or her life. Only then can we truly be fruitful and multiply.

What does this mean for us? It means that we cannot be a Christian by ourselves. We have to be connected to Church, to other people who are believers, to encourage each other. Connected to God in prayer and bible study. It means that we need to cut off the things that are poisonous to us in our lives.

Who is that person who is toxic in your life? What is that habit you keep doing secretly which you know doesn't bring glory to God? What is that thing you keep doing or saying which brings hurt to someone else? Cut it out.

Because it will take over your life as ivy chokes a living plant. But the true vine is liberating. The true vine will set you free. The true vine will let you flourish and grow and become the person God intended you to be.



Stf 663 I the Lord of sea and sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand
will save. I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn
away. I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*Daniel L. Schutte (born 1947) © 1981 Daniel L.
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Prayers of intercession:-

God our Father, grant us the help of your
Spirit in our prayers for the salvation of
all people.

We pray for the Church through the
world for this church and all it's
members That in faith and unity, we may
be constantly renewed by your Holy
Spirit for mission and service.

We pray for the peoples of the world for
the leaders of the nation that they may
seek justice, freedom and peace for all.

We pray for our country for those who
have authority and influence that all may
serve on another in wisdom, honesty
and compassion.

We pray for those among whom we live
and work for all our neighbours that we
may so use your gifts that together we
may find joy in your creation.

We pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety
or sickness that in their weakness they
may know your strength and in despair
find hope.

In you, Father, we are one family on
earth and in heaven. We remember in
your presence those who have died
giving thanks especially for those who
have revealed to us your grace in Christ.
Help us to follow the example of your
saints in light and bring us with them to
the fullness of your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen.

Stf 347 Crown him with many crowns

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Son of God,
before the worlds began;
and ye who tread where he has trod
crown him the Son of Man,
who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for
his own that all in him may rest.

3 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high;
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives, that death may die.

4 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

5 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side-
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-94)
and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)*

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Blessing:-

The love of the Father enfold us, the
wisdom of the son enlighten us the fire
of the Spirit enflame us and the blessing
of God, the Three in One, be upon us and
abide with us now and forever.
Amen.

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