



“ABIDING LOVE”

May 9, 2021

The Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Becky Davis, Elder

Call to Worship

Nancy Stevenson, Lay Leader

L: By design, God gifted us Spirit and Love: Jesus unwrapped them with water and blood.

P: Mothers, fathers, sisters, or brothers --- the love He gives has many names.

L: Far from being perfect or infallible, we are His tools for His trade.

P: Grans, aunts, cousins, or kin --- the love He gives takes many titles.

L: We are chosen anyway for the task: we know the Son and keep the commandments to love everyone.

P: The mother raises the child but sometimes the village --- the love He gives finds many ways.

L: God's love is faithful, always abiding, and true.

P: Friends, neighbors, teachers, or caregivers --- the love He gives uses ALL means.

All: With Faith as our strength and our assurance, let us love freely and unencumbered, so His love can find every soul.

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

No. 16 (1,2)

Opening Prayer

Nancy Stevenson

Passing of Our Presence

Video Presentation

Children's Moment

Bob Corbin, Lay Leader

Anthem

“Not I, but Christ”
Chancel Choir

Michael Ware

The Reading and Proclamation of the Word

Scripture Reading: John 15: 9-17 NRSV

Rev. Lilly Freeman

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. ¹⁶ You 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. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

"Abide in My Love"

Rev. Lilly Freeman

The Church in Prayer

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Becky Davis

Remembrance through Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

Becky Davis

As we come to this part of our service, we naturally think of Jesus last supper with his disciples and then on to his crucifixion. Even during the crucifixion and through his pain, Jesus was loving and caring for others. John, chapter 19 verses 25-27 tell us Jesus, while on the cross, saw his mother standing nearby and the disciple he loved. He said to His mother, "mother, behold your son" and to the disciple, "son, behold your mother." At a time when His own agony was so great and He was taking the sins of the world on Himself, Jesus was seeing to the long-term care of his mother.

If we want to be like Jesus, we will do spiritual things like praying, giving, serving, attending church and loving others as we love ourselves. Let us prepare our hearts to love, honor and serve our Lord at this table.

Communion Hymn

"I Come with Joy"

No. 420 (1,3)

Prayer for the Bread and Cup/Words of Institution

Rev. Lilly Freeman

Communion Response

Congregation

*By eating this bread and drinking this cup,
we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.*

Offerings Given in Response to Remembrance

Moment of Stewardship

Nancy Stevenson

To imitate the love of Jesus Christ is a most challenging task. In our human nature, this is not possible. Yet, we have not first loved God. God has first loved us. By opening our hearts to receive this gift of God's love, we begin to love in a way that transcends our human nature. This call to love is not just a feeling of love, but rather, it is a decision to love.

Love is not always an emotion. Love is not what we feel for one another but how we act toward our neighbors, even those we don't know. When we act in love, everyone benefits, and harm is not inflicted upon even the most vulnerable.

To love is to share with others what we have been given of God's gifts through our stewardship and outreach missions. This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

Offering Prayer

Nancy Stevenson

Doxology

No. 50

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sending Forth

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Lilly Freeman
connect@fccponcacity.com

Closing Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

No. 433

Benediction

Becky Davis

Go, abiding in Christ's love,
Go, remembering we are to love one another as Christ loves us.
Go, knowing you did not choose Christ, but Christ chose you.
Go, bearing fruit, fruit that will last.
Go, loving one another so that Christ's joy will be in you and that your joy may be complete.
Amen

Postlude

“The Day of Resurrection”

Henry Smart

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Karyn Sledge in honor of her Mother.
This week's flowers are also given in honor of all Mothers. Happy Mother's Day!

Greeters: Ralph & Pauletta Beaty

AV Tech Team: Karen Adams, Mike Morriss

Sound Board: Bob Jorgenson, Sheila Kirkpatrick, Marta Sullivan

Pianist: Sheila Kirkpatrick

Chancel Choir Director: Andrew Orr

Worship Planning Committee: Chairman: Marta Sullivan; Members: Karen Adams, Diann Benson, Bob Corbin, Becky Davis, Rev. Kent Dorsey, Nancy Stevenson, Patti Ziegenhain

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