



Welcome to Wilton Presbyterian Church

May 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We are glad that you found us and that you are here. We are a progressive, welcoming and inclusive congregation seeking both to know Christ and to make Christ known to people from all walks of life. We pray that we will become better acquainted with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shannon White

PRELUDE

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Tune: UNION SEMINARY

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around

People: **within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

Leader: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

People: **we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

All: **We worship the God who inhabits our world, and who indwells our lives.**

PCUSA prayer

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Come with what you have. For you who grieve this day know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.

People: **Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.**

Leader: Come with what you have. For you who come with gladness know that your melody will find harmony.

People: **Accepting God's love for us, we are called to love one another.**

Leader: Come with what you have. For you weighed down by too many 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs' know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.

People: **Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.**

Leader: Come with what you have. For you who have the answers, know that new questions await you.

People: **Accepting God's love for us, we are called to love one another.**

Leader: Come with what you have. For you who come seeking, know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

People: **Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.**

written by Katherine Hawker

TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

"Softly and Tenderly"
Arr. Roger House

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Virgil Roberson

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain 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. "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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

EPISTLE READING

John 4:7-21

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 his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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 he 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 him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Barbara Hamm

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Berta Hull

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

Arr. Mark Hayes



WILTON PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor
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Director of Music
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SESSION	DEACONS
<u>Class of 2021</u> Buck Burnaman Forrest Close Berta Hull (Clerk) Jason Rice	<u>Class of 2021</u> Sonny Kern Dee King Tom Schneider Becky Shroyer Cathy Thomas
<u>Class of 2022</u> Patty Connor John Stewart Jock Wright	<u>Class of 2022</u> Rachelle Bernabei Sally Carta Virgil Roberson Liz Archibald
<u>Class of 2023</u> Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood	<u>Class of 2023</u> Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson

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