

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 29, 2018
“THE ABIDING RELATIONSHIP”**

PRESERVICE MUSIC..... “What A Beautiful Name”

**You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You our Christ**

**What a beautiful name it is, What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King, What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this, What a beautiful name it is, The name of Jesus**

**You didn't want heaven without us, So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater, What could separate us now**

**What a wonderful name it is, What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King, What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this, What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus, What a wonderful name it is, The name of Jesus**

**Death could not hold You, The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave, The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory, For You are raised to life again**

**You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign, Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory, Yours is the name above all names**

**What a powerful name it is, What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King, What a powerful name it is
Nothing can stand against, What a powerful name it is, The name of Jesus**

**You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign, Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory, Yours is the name above all names**

**What a powerful name it is, What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King, What a powerful name it is
Nothing can stand against, What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus, What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus, What a powerful name it is, The name of Jesus**

*“What A Beautiful Name” written by Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing
Scripture Reference: John 1:1; John 17:24; Matt 27:51; Phil 2:9 CCLI Song # 7068424 CCLI License # 51072*

“Come To The Table “

**We all start on the outside, The outside looking in
This is where grace begins, We were hungry we were thirsty
With nothing left to give, Oh the shape that we were in**

Just when all hope seemed lost, Love opened the door for us

**He said come to the table, Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior, Sit down and be set free, Come to the table**

**Come meet this motley crew of misfits, These liars and these thieves
There’s no one unwelcome here,
And that sin and shame that you’ve brought with you
You can leave it at the door, And let mercy draw you near**

**So come to the table, Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior, Sit down and be set free,
Come to the table, Come to the table**

**To the thief and to the doubter, To the hero and the coward
To the prisoner and the soldier, To the young and to the older
All who hunger all who thirst, All the last and all the first
All the paupers and the princes, All who fail you’ve been forgiven
All who dream and all who suffer, All who loved and lost another
All the chained and all the free, All who follow all who lead
Anyone who’s been let down, All the lost you have been found
All who’ve been labeled right or wrong, To everyone who hears this song**

**Come to the table, Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior, Sit down and be set free
Sit down and be set free, Come to the table
Come to the table, Sit down and be set free, Come to the table**

*“Come To The Table” written by Ben Glover, Ben McDonald, Dave Frey © 9t One Songswww.ccli.com
Scripture Reference: Luke 22:7-23 CCLI Song: 7036352 CCLI License: 51072*

This narrative of the vine and the branches coupled with God as the vine grower gives us a clear and vivid picture of what it means to have an abiding relationship with God in and through Jesus Christ. The greek word, “meno” means abide and emphasizes the intimate relationship we are to have with Jesus. To abide means to remain, stay connected, and bound together. This relationship binds together the Father, Son, and community of believers in a beautiful way which is counter to a culture that often keeps God at a distance. As the Gospel of John reminds us here, the vine must stay connected to the branches. They must abide (remain), otherwise they will wither away and die and there will be no fruit. When we are in an abiding relationship with the Lord, we too, will remain and produce fruit. Serving the world and impacting lives is what this fruit is all about.

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING SONG “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

**Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Turn my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood**

**O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above**

**Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above**

*"Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" written by Robert Robinson, John Wyeth Public Domain CCLI Song: 108389
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INVOCATION

Pastor: We have joined together today as one people in Christ to worship our Lord Who is full of love and truth. Let us rejoice together in one accord as the people of God!

People: **Amen!**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: God of all creation, because of Your unconditional love for this broken world, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, who changed humanity forever. When Your Son, Jesus, rose from the dead, the hope of eternal life for all believers was born. The abiding relationship with Christ gives us strength and nurtures our growth. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. This relationship connects us to our brothers and sisters in a special way. For all believers in Christ, we have that common hope and promise that draws us together and unites us as one. As we sing, pray, and hear Your Word today, may the Holy Spirit bring us closer to You and to one another.

People: **In the name of our risen Lord. Amen.**

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

People: **Merciful and Loving God, We know that You and Your disciples and apostles found Yourselves in the midst of crowds often. Many of them were confused and restless, broken and wounded, and some were filled with curiosity and questions. They were like sheep without a shepherd and therefore there was no unity. Your abiding presence drew them into a relationship that demonstrated compassion and love as well as forgiveness.**

We confess before You today that much of the time we are just like the world around us. We often hurt each other with our words and actions. We carry wounds and experiences from the past that prevent us from growing in the present. At times, we keep You at a distance rather than abiding in You and gaining wisdom and strength. We find ourselves looking for meaning, love, and acceptance in all the wrong places.

Loving and grace-filled Lord, forgive us and renew our commitment to You—that we may be one—united in belief, love, and service in Your name. Give us the strength and power to change areas of our lives that are barriers to unity with others in the body of Christ – the Church.

Pastor: Know that your sins are washed away in the waters of baptism and removed through the blood of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God who restores us and renews us daily.

+ We Hear God's Word +

Acts 8:26-40(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin)..... (on page 1705 in NIV pew Bible)

1 John 4:1-11(12-21)(ESV) (page 5 in bulletin)..... (on page 1902 in NIV pew Bible)

John 15:1-8(ESV)(page 6 in bulletin)..... (on page 1676 in NIV pew Bible)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

SERMON SONG“Still”

**I believe that You are God alone,
But sometimes I still try to take control
Cause I get scared when I can't see the end,
And all You want from me is to let go**

**You're parting waters making a way for me,
You're moving mountains that I don't even see
You've answered my prayer before I even speak,
All You need for me to be is still**

**I bring my praise before I bring my need,
Cause there's no fear You've not already seen
I rest my heart on all Your promises
Cause I have seen and know Your faithfulness**

You're parting waters making a way for me
You're moving mountains that I don't even see
You've answered my prayer before I even speak
All You need for me to be is still
And know that You are God Be still
And know that You, trust that You are parting waters
Lord, You whispered my name,
Oh, You answered my prayer,
You're moving mountains

You're parting waters making a way for me
You're moving mountains that I don't even see
You've answered my prayer before I even speak
All You need for me to be is still, Be still

*"Still" written by Justin Ebach, Molly Reed © 2015 Wordspring Music, LLC
Scripture Reference: Psalm 86:10; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 65:24 CCLI Song: 7050725 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE..... ““The Right Connection”.....John 15:1-8 by Rev. Gary Fortkamp

OFFERING SONG.....“Lead Us Back”

Lead us back where we belong
Call us as Your very own
Lead us back,
Safe into Your arms

*"Lead Us Back" written by Tai Anderson, David Carr, Mark Lee, Mac Powell @2015 Songs Of Worship
Scripture Reference: Exodus 6:6-8 CCLI License: 51072*

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As you go your way, may the abiding presence of Christ give you peace and joy!

People: Thanks be to God. Amen!

CLOSING SONG.....“My Redeemer Lives”

I know He rescued my soul,
His blood covered my sin,
I believe I believe

**My shame He's taken away,
My pain is healed in His name,
I believe I believe**

**I'll raise the banner,
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

**I know He rescued my soul,
His blood covered my sin,
I believe I believe**

**My shame He's taken away,
My pain is healed in His name,
I believe I believe**

**I'll raise the banner,
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

**You lift my burdens; And I rise with You,
I'm dancing on this mountain top
To see Your Kingdom come**

**My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives**

*"My Redeemer Lives" written by Reuben Morgan 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing Scripture Reference: 1 John 1:7
CCLI Song: 2397964 CCLI License: 51072*

We Exit to Serve!

If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.