



## WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

John 15:1-8 (CEB)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21 (CEB)

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent God's only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in God and God remains in us, because God has given us a measure of God's Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God" and hate their siblings are liars. After all, those who don't love their siblings whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from God: Those who claim to love God ought to love their siblings also.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

"What Will You Do for Love?"

Shani McIlwain

+ Hymn 693 *Though I May Speak*

#### Affirmation of Faith

[from the PCUSA Study Catechism]

One: What is God's purpose for your life?

**All: God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

One: How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**All: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.**

One: How do you live for the love of God?

**All: I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.**

One: How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

**All: By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.**

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

**We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.**

**Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.**

**We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,**

**One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.**

Prayers of the People

### EUCHARIST

*Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed.*

*We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.*

Offering



*Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.*

*Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.*

Offertory

I Am the True Vine

Arvo Pärt

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If someone abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and some gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

—John 15:1-14

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and a Reimagining of Lord's Prayer by Rubem Alves

**Father ... Mother ... of tender eyes, I know that you are invisible in all things.**

**May your name be sweet to me, the joy of my world.**

**Bring us the good things that give you pleasure: a garden, fountains, children, bread and wine,  
tender gestures, hands without weapons, bodies hugging each other ...**

**I know you want to meet my deepest wish, the one whose name I forgot ... but you never forget.**

**Bring about your wish that I may laugh.**

**May your wish be enacted in our world, as it throbs inside you.**

**Grant us contentment in today's joys: bread, water, sleep ...**

**May we be free from anxiety.**

**May our eyes be as tender to others as yours to us.**

**Because, if we are vicious, we will not receive your kindness.  
And help us, that we may not be deceived by evil wishes.  
And deliver us from the ones who carry death inside their eyes. Amen.**

SENDING

*Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.*

+ Hymn 799 *I Love the Lord*

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

+ Postlude

Credo from *Annum per annum*

Arvo Pärt

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Our liturgist is GPPC's Pastor, Carla Pratt Keyes. Today's lector is Mai Owens. Our livestream operator is Alfred Walker. Scott Carswell is lead usher.

OUR GUEST PREACHER is the writer, speaker, and podcaster Shani McIlwain. Shani wrote the book *Awkward Silence*, which guided yesterday's workshop. She is also the host of two independent content creations, "The Sharing With Shani Show" on FB Live, and "Embracing Race: Conversations with Truth and Intention."

Today's psalm translation is from Wilda Gafney's *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*. (RitePlanning.org © 2022, Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.)

"Our Father... Our Mother," by Rubem Alves (Translation: Jovelino and Joan Ramosis) is found in *Transparencies of Eternity*, Miami, Convivium Press, 2010, p. 11, used with permission.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at [ginterparkpc@gmail.com](mailto:ginterparkpc@gmail.com).

SUPPORT THE REDUCE ACT - In the Narthex is a letter from GPPC to our representatives in Congress: Tim Kaine, Mark Warner, and Jennifer McClellan. The letter expresses support for the Rewarding Efforts to Decrease Unrecycled Contaminants in Ecosystems (REDUCE) Act (H.R. 5564/S. 2844). If you didn't sign last week, we invite you to sign this week!