

East Bangor
United Methodist Community Church
April 28th, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter/Reception of New Members
Our Mission: To Reach, Teach and Share God's Love

WELCOME
PASSING OF THE PEACE
PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.

Rises without visible connection; roots hidden, promise unknown.

Strong to withstand storms, fragile when plucked too soon.

So it is that we grow – nourished by invisible connections to the living God, called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.

***HYMN #111**

“How Can We Name a Love”

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**How can we name a Love
that wakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know
or think or do
or seek or find?
Within our daily world,
in every human face,
Love's echoes sound
and God is found,
hid in the commonplace.**

**If we awoke to life
built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward
but firm, assured,
was simply there,
we can, with parents' names,
describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined,
a father kind,
a mother strong and sure.**

**When people share a task,
and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new,
to make or do
with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will
is better understood,
that all should share,
create, and care,
and know that life is good.**

So in a hundred names,
each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown
at work, at home,
or in the street.
Yet every name we see,
shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone
is Love full grown
and life and hope begun.

***MORNING PRAYER**

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

“Good Grapes”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS, Pg. 45

Cooper Esposito
Jennifer Esposito

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Here I Am, Lord”
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Schutte/Schrader

**CELEBRATING OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
SILENT PRAYERS
PASTORAL PRAYER
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

***THE DOXOLOGY #95**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN OF PREPARATION #397** “I Need Thee Every Hour”

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.

(Refrain)

**I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
(Refrain)**

**I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.
(Refrain)**

**I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
(Refrain)**

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1 - 8

15 “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. **4** 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.

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. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

MESSAGE

“Staying Connected”

Pastor Dave

***HYMN OF DISMISSAL #384**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,**

**serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**