**Calvary United Methodist Church**

Sunday, May 2, 2021; 10:15 am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Dee Freeman*

Call To Worship *Psalm 9:1-2*

God is the True Vine,  
**And we are the branches.**  
Connected to God.  
**Connected to bear fruit!**  
Connected to God.  
**Or we wither away.**  
Connected to God.  
**Or useless!**  
We come to worship God, who is the True Vine.  
**God, teach us how to remain connected so that we might bear good fruit![[1]](#footnote-2)**

Invocation of the Spirit

Hymn *Near to the Heart of God*

Second Testament Lesson *1 John 4:7-21*

**"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

**This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.**

**God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**

**We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."** (NRSV)

Declaration of Praises

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Time

Scripture Lesson *Ephesians 6:10-18*

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" (NLT)

Sermon *Rev. Matthew Williams  
Time to Pray: Intercession*

Closing Hymn *He Rose*

Benediction

Postlude *Dee Freeman*

1. Safiyah Fosua, https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/god-is-the-true-vine-21st-century-worship-resources-for-the-fifth-sunday-of. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)