

Abiding in Christ means that we give Christ



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —

but each and every day.

our time,
our energy,
our attention,
our prayer,
our worship,
our hearts,
minds,
and souls,
all that we are—
not occasionally,
not when it is
convenient
or fits into our
schedules,

—David Hockett

First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812
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**ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

*Come with hope or despair, expectation, or
disappointment,
and seek the Lord even as the Lord seeks you.*

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Andante
For the Beauty of the Earth*

Handel
arr. Taylor

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

SOLO INTROIT

In the Bulb there is a Flower

C638

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promised; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Come to the vineyard of God.

We seek Christ, the vine of great love.

Drink from the waters of life.

We live in the light of God's grace.

Come to the vineyard of God.

All are welcome here.

OPENING PRAYER

SOLO *O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free*, v. 1,5,6 NCH209; Tune:NCH259

PRAYER FOR A NEW BEGINNING (unison)

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Alleluia!

Amen! Let us praise God. Alleluia

SONG OF PRAISE

Tune: LLANFAIR

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia! Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ACTS 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

SOLO *Take Me to the Water*, v. 1,3,4 C367

Take me to the water to be baptized.

I love Jesus, yes, I do.

He's my Savior, yes, he is.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

1 JOHN 4:7-21

God is Love

JOHN 15:1-8

I AM the Vine; Abide in Me

SOLO

Because He Lives, Refrain

C562

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future, and life is worth living just because he lives.

SERMON

Abide

Rev. Priem

SOLO

Fill My Cup, Lord, v.3

C351

So, my friend, if all the things this world gave you leave hungers that won't pass away,
my blessed Lord will come and save you, if you kneel to him and humbly pray:
Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of Heaven, feed me 'til I want no more—fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays: Mary M., Sarah L., Linda B., Danielle C

Prayer for the Nations: Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece

SOLO

Come, Share the Lord, vv. 1,2a

C408

We gather here in Jesus name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For thru his loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord
No one is stranger here, ev'ry one belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:

Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO

Come, Share the Lord, vv. 2b,3

C408

We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here In the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;

Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:

Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord.

PRAYER OVER OFFERINGS (Mail to PO Box 12, Ellsworth, 04605)

Beloved Father, Beloved Mother, Beloved Generous God, abide not only in us, but in the gifts we now return to you. Let your abundant love flow through these offerings, that others may know and experience your constant, abiding love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SOLO

At the door

NCH 308

At the door we are commissioned, now the Easter victory's won,
to restore a world divided to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Easter's work must still be done.

COMMISSIONING

Beloved children of God, love one another well.

We will abide in Christ's generous love.

Be born in the Spirit of grace.

We will live in the fullness of hope.

Grow into branches bearing the fruit of love: peace, joy, hope, faith.

We will remember that the greatest harvest is the harvest of love. Alleluia!

SOLO BLESSING

May You Run and Not Be Weary

Murakami

May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song,
And may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Go Joyfully

Williamson

C indicates Chalice Hymnal. NCH indicates New Century Hymnal.

Some of the spoken text in this service is adapted from *Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*.

In the bulb, words & music Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI # 1546442 Streaming # 20543232

Sing we to Our God, text Cynthia Priem, tune Robert Williams 1817. Public Domain

Take Me to the Water, African-American Spiritual. Public Domain

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free, Translation © 1994 The Pilgrim Press

Because He Lives, words & music Gloria & William J. Gaither © 1971, 1995 William J. Gaither

CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Fill my cup, words & music Richard Blanchard © 1964 Sacred Songs, a div. of Word, Inc.

CCLI # 1546442 Streaming # 20543232

Come Share The Lord, words & music Bryan Jeffery Leech © 1984 Fred Bock Music Co.

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At the door, tune WESTMINSTER ABBEY Henry Purcell c. 1680; Public Domain

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May You Run, words & music Paul Murakami © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing Co., Inc/Changing Church, Inc.

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**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 89 MEALS ON APRIL 28, 2021.
Serving Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 p.m.**

If you would like to donate food or volunteer, please call the church.
The WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, is serving take-out only. Please call the church on Wednesdays by 4 p.m., 667-8321, to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.

The Hancock County Food Drive is ending this weekend

Our Welcome Table benefits from this drive in two ways.

- (1) The foods collected are distributed among the food pantries and meal sites.
- (2) The United Way gives a cash donation in proportion to the amount of donations collected.

If you are intending to donate but have not yet done so, PLEASE contact Lois S. to set up a time for pickup at your place or delivery to the church.

The Mission Committee and the people we serve thank you!

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS THIS WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY
YOU MAY PARTICIPATE AND VOTE IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM.**

**ALSO TODAY!
SUNRISE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING (ZOOM)**

The meeting has three sections.

12:30 Time for fellowship.

1:00 Association Meeting

2:00 Installation of the Pastor at Union Congregational Church, Hancock

Your ZOOM Connection for all of these events:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88629013325?pwd=U1cwZ3lGWEMxNHVsOWN4MkM2dldLQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2901 3325 Passcode: 024423

UPCOMING

The pastor will be on vacation for a week starting May 10, 2021.

The deacons will arrange coverage of worship and pastoral care.

Contact Katharine if you need to speak with a member of the clergy May 10-16