



Crooks Memorial United Methodist Church

Welcome Back

May 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

*Invites persons to stand as they are able.

Bold print indicates a congregational/unison reading.

Welcome to Worship

Cell phone and electronic devices: Please set to silence.
Hard of hearing or sight: Large print hymnals and listening devices are available from an usher.
We record worship: As a ministry to those unable to be present, our worship service is livestreamed, recorded and posted to our website and social media sites.

Prelude

Phillip Higgins

Welcome

Rev. Lisa Barbery

Hymn *And Are We Yet Alive (verse 1)*

UMH 553

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!

Liturgy for Resuming In-person Indoor Worship

By Rev. Kerry Greenhill © 2020 (adapted by Rev. Lisa Barbery)

Rev. Lisa Barbery
Bob VanZandt

- 1: And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
 Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
- 2: What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
 fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last.
- 1: Dear Ones, we are gathered once more in this sacred space, a sanctuary where faithful
 Christians have worshiped God for years.
- 2: We have come to worship God and to celebrate our community! Let the people say 'Alleluia!'
- All: Alleluia!**
- 1: We give thanks that after more than a year of separation and isolation, we can see each
 other's faces once more.
- 2: We rejoice that we can be together as the Body of Christ! Let the people say 'Thanks be to
 God!'
- All: Thanks be to God!**
- 1: We give thanks that we are yet alive. And all the while we lift in prayer all those who have
 died, those who have suffered and survived, those who are grieving. Lord, in your mercy...
- All: Hear our prayer.**

2: We lift up our own fears and concerns, for ourselves or our loved ones, for those still serving on the frontline, for teachers and parents continuing to adjust to new rhythms, for families and neighbors still separated. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

1: We recognize we have much to be thankful for. We have much to be hopeful for.

2: New ministries have emerged over the past year in spite of and as a result of the pandemic.

1: Calls, cards, blessing bags, drive-thrus, missional partnership, abundance of generosity.

2: We have continued to gather for study, prayer, fellowship, and service.

1: New connections and relationships have been formed.

2: We have been reminded that the church is us and not a building. But rejoice to be within the walls of this mission outpost once again.

1&2: Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

1: And even as we celebrate gathering for worship once again, there are still losses that we grieve and lament in this time and space:

2: Not being able to sing together as a choir, or as a congregation;

1: not being able to congregate for food and fellowship;

2: our family members in Christ who are not yet able to join us in this space

1: changes in the way we greet one another, celebrate Communion, study the Bible, and build relationships.

1&2: Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

1: Holy, Healing, Comforting God, we ask that your arms would embrace us when we long for the things of the past.

2: Creating, Transforming, Sustaining God, we ask that you guide us to new expressions of praise while our voices cannot rise in song.

1: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fill the spaces between us with love, and keep us connected to those who cannot join us in this space for the sake of their health or their loved ones.

2: Help us to be the Body of Christ wherever we are, whether at home or at work, in the sanctuary or the backyard, the neighborhood or across the globe;

1: A living, breathing, Body, always connected, always active, in prayer and worship, in learning and relationship, in service and hospitality.

2: Loving God by loving neighbor, knowing ourselves to be lovingly created in God's divine image; forgiven, made whole and set free in Jesus Christ; and inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit,

1: Sharing good news of God's unconditional love, all-encompassing grace, and life-giving power, in thought, word, and deed, each day of our lives.

2: Let the people say "Amen!"

All: Amen!

1&2: Let the people say “Alleluia!”

All: Alleluia!

Scripture John 15:1-8

Debbie Braziel

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn

The Lord of Life, a Vine is He

The Lord of Life, a vine is he
and grafted to him we must be;
and thus we yield abundantly
sweet fruit for all to taste and see.

If we be joined to him we know
his strength and power will help us grow.
His Spirit's grace through us will flow
to prune and shape us as we go.

The vine is he, the branches we
for now and to eternity.
His word sown deep in us will be
both sun and rain . . . sufficiency.

The Lord of Life, the Source Divine
calls us to come, with him entwine.
Will we, unhearing, dare decline
the call of Christ, the One True Vine?

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to Practice of Generosity and Preparation for Communion

Communion *All are invited to the Table*

UMH 12-15

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silent Prayer

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet
sinners; that proves God's love
toward us. In the name of Jesus
Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

This is the Body of Christ broken for you.
This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.
Take, eat, and be filled.

Hymn

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed (verses 1 & 5)

UMH 359

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

At the cross, at the cross,
where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there by
faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.

***Benediction**

Postlude

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Our Mission:
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.
Our Vision:
Making Space for God and Others
Our Values:
Worship † Faith † Family † Hospitality

Prayer List

Homebound, Nursing Home & Home Recovery

Elizabeth Callaham
Frank Grimsley (James River Conv.)
Mary Henry
Rev. Bill Mayton (Warwick Forest)
Joan Rhodes (Mennowood)
Ritchie Smith
Joy Wallace (Colonial Harbor)
John & Ruth Whitmore
Buddy & Donna Young
Nancy Williams

Family and Friends

Bobby Belvin
Patty Belvin
Katherine Bland
The family of Ray Duley
Chuck Eldred
Lee Jackson (car accident)
Travis Kincaid (spinal injury)
Kevin Malone (waiting for heart transplant)
Doug & Lesa Newbill
Mary Randolph (medical procedure on 4/26)
Raquel, friend of Doug & Lesa Newbill (COVID)
Tom Snively
Pat Sisk's cousin, Priscilla Wehmeyer (hospice)

Family & Friends listed for 4 weeks unless otherwise updated.

Community Focus this week: All of our local First Responders and all those serving in the Armed Forces.

Our Church: Pastor, Leaders, District Superintendent, Bishop and the United Methodist Church

Our International Mission: Firm Foundations Romania & Sarah Vienna

Our Nation and World: All leaders, our Country, and all those affected by the Coronavirus.