

GRADUATION & COMMUNION SUNDAY,

Preservice *Grateful* arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome April Vaden

Choral Introit *Why We Sing* (Gilpin) The Celebration Singers

Prelude *Here, at Your Table, Lord* arr. Mark Hayes

Call To Worship Regan Nattinger

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

Hymn of Praise *Christ We Are Blest* W & S 3174

Christ, we are blest as we gather to dine, strengthened for love by the bread and the wine. This is your body, now entering ours, strong with your loving, miraculous powers.

You laid your life down like sowing a seed; once dead and buried, from death you are freed, rising like wheat in the warmth of the sun! Christ, you are risen! New life has begun!

Christ, you are risen, but no far above: you live among us in each act of love, in every deed of compassion you rise, living in flesh we can see with our eyes. Jesus, you feed us, then bid us to leave, sharing with others the love we receive. We are your body, sent by your command, making love real as the bread in our hands.

Offertory Celebration **Graduate Recognition** April Vaden
Ben Crow, Sophia Lippert, Joel Miranda, Reagan Nattinger, Jacob Westfall, Savanna Zavidny

LEADER: God of truth and knowledge, by your Wisdom Dr. Randall Smith
 we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they finish this milestone of study.

ALL: We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.

LEADER: Walk with our graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

ALL: Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you open, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.

LEADER: For our graduates, truly "this is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on," and "a time to believe what love is bringing."

ALL: May they always know that "Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new."

BENEDICTION FOR GRADUATES

Dr. T. Randall Smith

May the blessing of God follow each of you as you find new journeys to travel.

May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams.

May God's gentle hand guide the decisions you will make
and the passions that you will follow.

May your hearts and lives always reflect God's love and truth,
And may you carry the light of hope within you
into each new day.

We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Offertory Anthem

Bound for Greater Things (Medema) The Celebration Singers

Sermon Intro/ Prayer for Illumination

Dr. T. Randall Smith

Scripture: John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes[a] to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon

I AM the True Vine: Attached or Detached.

Dr. T. Randall Smith

Sermon Series: Easter Joy

Communion Sunday, UMH 19, 20 Communion Responses

Invitation to Communion

April Vaden

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

April Vaden

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.

Words of Assurance

April Vaden

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!

The Great Thanksgiving

Dr. T. Randall Smith

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. The very essence of you self-giving is love. You call us to live in love because you first loved us. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He taught us that when we abide in him as he abides in you that we will have life and bear much fruit. Many chose not to hear that word but to do away with him.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And yet, even death could not have victory over love. You raised him from the dead and offer us life through him.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen. And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving. The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

Prayer Following Communion

April Vaden

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Service

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain: Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them.
They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them, Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

Benediction

Dr. T. Randall Smith

Dismissal

Grace Alone

TFWS 2162

*Every promise we can make Every prayer and step of faith
Every difference we can make Is only by His grace.*

*Every mountain we will climb Every ray of hope we shine
Every blessing left behind Is only by His grace.*

*Grace alone Which God supplies Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us, our cornerstone We will go forth in grace alone*

Chimes

Postlude

Blessed Be The Name

arr. Carol Tornquist



WORSHIP LEADERS & CHURCH STAFF

Guest Pastor: Rev. T. Randall Smith
Dr. Richard L. White, Senior Pastor, Rev. Mark Kimbrough, Associate Pastor
Barry Barrios, Music & Worship Arts Director
April Vaden, Children's Ministry Director | Zach Cheeseman, Youth Director
The Celebration Singers Youth Choir
Quartet: Becky Ansley, Barry Barrios, Dan & Tracey Patterson | Diane Paulsen, Piano
Mark Walker, Media, Buddy Trotter, Media | Lisa Martinson, Communications