

# FIFTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

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**Fifth Sunday After Easter**

**April 28, 2024**

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Dave Bertelsen, Singer  
Alana Dalton, Liturgist  
Deanna Gibeau, Organist  
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jean B. Schmidt, Retired Elder

**JOIN US** IN PERSON OR ONLINE  
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

## **WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC**

Whether you're just beginning to explore your faith or have been following Christ for years, you and your whole family can belong at Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church

**Note:** L: denotes worship "Leader/Liturgist"  
P: denotes "People"  
\*: Please stand if you are able

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### ~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

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Prelude: "Come, Rejoice" by P. Barteles

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### ~WELCOME & CENTERING~

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#### **GREETING:**

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

#### **INVOCATION:**

**Pastor Jean**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsively)

L: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

**P: We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

**P: We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

**P: We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

L: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**P: We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

**UMH #89**

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**~WE PROCLAIM~**

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**1 John 4:7-21~ NRSV (unison)**

**Liturgist**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: So ends the reading.

**Gospel: John 15:1-8~ NRSV**

**Pastor Jean**

15 “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.

**L:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**P:** Thanks be to God.

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**“You Are Welcome Here”  
Dave Bertelsen, Director**

**Marty Parks**

**SERMON:**

**“How Shall We Love”**

**Pastor Jean**

**\*HYMN**

**“I Love You, Lord”**

**TFWS 2068**

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**~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~**

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**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (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.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**Pastor Jean**

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. 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!

**P: In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYERS:**

**L:** Father, we pray for your holy, universal Church;

**P: That all may be one.**

**L:** Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**P: That your name may be glorified by all people.**

**L:** We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**P: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

**L:** Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**P: That our works may find favor in your sight.**

**L:** Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**P: That they have be delivered from their distress.**

**L:** Sustain all those who look to You in hope.

**P:** And strengthen us—Your people—  
so that we may be love for all those who find themselves alone.  
**L:** Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (Silence)  
**P:** In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:** (words on screen)

**THE PEACE:**

**Pastor:** Let us share with one another a sign of God’s love, blessing and peace.

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~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

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**\*DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (unison)**

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John’s gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

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**\*Pastor:**

Branches of the Vine, go from this place blessed by Love to work in love with your family, your friends, your neighbors, and strangers who will become friends, bearing the fruit of the life-giving Vine as you cultivate abundant life wherever you go. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Bind Us Together” TFWS #2226

**\*POSTLUDE:** “Love Eternal” by J. Worsen

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**Cake** in the Lounge is in Celebration of **Tom Calenberg’s** Maternal Grandparents, Arthur & Mary Klein, joining our Church in April 1924, and his Paternal Grandparents, Alex & Clara Calenberg, joining in October 1924.

**Bulletins** are given by Alana Dalton in honor of her husband, **Leslie’s**, 80<sup>th</sup>, birthday on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.