

**ABIDE IN MY
LOVE...YOU
SHALL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT.**

JOHN 15:1-17

5th Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 @ 10:00 am

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

WELCOME ALL

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Julie Peterson

Provocative and surprising is the God of resurrection!

How wonderful are the strange ways of God.

Making holy our sorrow...

God births life from death.

Disavowing power that threatens and destroys,

God is a force of justice, transformative and restoring.

The peculiar practices of God unsettle and confuse.

Whatever shape love will take, it is welcome in this place.

*OPENING HYMN

"Here in This Place"

GTG #401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

Continued...

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jim B.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Creator of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world. Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONDING TO GRACE

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

GTG # 591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

SHARE GOD’S LOVE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

“Jesus Loves Me”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

Jim B.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-11

Rev. Julie Peterson

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Yard Work

Rev. Julie Peterson

OFFER HOPE ...IN JESUS' NAME

*PASSING THE PEACE

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

(Grant us Peace)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH³ *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22*

Jim B.

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr. Chris Owenby

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

“We Come as Guests Invited”

GTG #504; Blue #517

**We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.**

**We eat and drink receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.**

**One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING²

May the God of searches be with you.

And also with you.

Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.

Lift songs of praise to our God.

We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming, “God has done it!”

“Get up,” you cried to your Word and Spirit, “and go down the wilderness road to chaos.”

And so they went, calling forth life out of nothingness, planting seeds that branched into vines, pouring clear water into earth's hollows, crafting us in your imaginative image. You showed all of this to us, with delight in your heart, but we did not understand what we were seeing, and so chose death and sin to be our guides in this life. Though we loved you last, you loved us first, sending your prophets to declare all you had done, but we continued to abide in the tangled briars of temptation. So you sent Jesus to us, the One who would bear your fruit of salvation and hope for all your children. With those who seem to intuit your hearts, with those seeking to understand your hopes, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of eunuchs and evangelists.

All creation bears fruit in glorifying you. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us.

Hosanna in the highest!

Love is your language of holiness, Branch weaving God, And Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart. When we were wandering lost and alone, trying to understand what we were doing, he crossed over glory to join us in this journey we know as life. When we could do nothing to prevent our bondage to sin, he came to set us free. When we could not learn how to make things right with you, he went down the wilderness road into the cold tomb of death, so, as you raised him to new life, he might proclaim to us, "God has done it!" As we seek to abide in Jesus, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

Christ died, that we might live through him;

Christ was raised, that he might live through you;

Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.

Abide in us at this Table, as you pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup, and on your children gathered in this place. The broken bread reminds us that you loved us first so that, as we eat of it, we might put the needs of the hungry, the searching, the hurting, the lonely before our own. The cup of grace nourishes us so we can go over and join the oppressed and the outcasts, intertwining our branches with theirs, so we all become part of the Vine of justice and of hope. Then, when we no longer sleep in death, but are gathered around your Table with our sisters and brothers of all time and places, we will join in singing with one voice and heart, "You have done it, God in Community, Holy in One. Alleluia! Amen."

COMMUNING TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION³

Author of Life, You have written love into the beginning of our stories. You have written love into the blood that flows in our veins, into our very DNA, for we are made in Your image and You are love. We have strayed from the story You intended for us, so help us find our way back. Open our hearts to love more deeply. Open our minds to seek Your wisdom and to grow beyond what we know. Open our lives to recognize that Your Beloved Community is beyond the people of our family unit, beyond our friends and neighbors and churches, but the whole world. Help us to live into ways

that sustain and nourish this planet and all Your children, and remind us that You are the Author of our lives, in whom we find our beginning and ending. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“May the God of Hope Go With Us”

GTG #765

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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²Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies ©2021, reprinted with permission.

³Call to Worship 54.1, © 2021 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Welcome All
Share God's Love
Offer Hope
... all in Jesus' name



Prayer

REQUESTS

Avonne (Laura's mother)
Linda A (sister of Judy M)
Steve A (father-in-law of Glenna's daughter)
Connie & Ed (friends of Karen)
Dee B (former member)
Kevin B (Joe L's co-worker/friend)
Mildred B
Mary Ann B
Sushma B
Andree C
Chuck C (Laura D's brother)
Patrick C (Stu/Marie's son-in-law)
Renee C (Laura's sister-in-law)
Jim C (Mary Ann's son-in-law)
Tom C (Ann M's brother-in-law)
Sabina C (Adelaide's sister-in-law)
Betty D (Marie R's cousin)
Linda D (Jim/ Sue's relative)
Betty F (Chris L's mother)
Donna F (Jim/Sue's aunt)
Karen F
Gabi (Mother of Sue/Joe's son-in-law)
Adelaide G
Bruce & Linda G (friends of Stu/Marie)
Nick G (Stu/Marie's grandson)
Rita H (Jim/Ann's relative)
James & Sandra (friends of John/Cheryl)

Jessica (Charlie/Nancy's niece)
José K (Adelaide's friend)
Steve (Jane's brother)
Bob L (husband of Judie T's friend)
Jim/Sheryl L (Ken/Pat's son-in-law/daughter)
Pam L
Phyllis L
McKenzie (daughter of Michelle V's friend)
Crisann M (friend of Mike/Chris L)
Judy M
Klee M (Fritz/Fay's son)
Kofi M (Adelaide's family friend)
Lisa M (Karen's daughter)
Steve M
Lois McP
Susan Q (Ann S's boss)
Maria R (Laura D's friend)
Jessie R (Julie/Jeff's niece)
Ann & Geoff S
Geri S (Adelaide's neighbor)
Martin S (Sue/Jim's friend)
Marnie S (Glenna M's friend)
Larry V (Jim V's father)
Those who are caregivers
Those devastated by terrorism
Our world and all affected by COVID-19
Those who grieve
Owen W and his family(former member)



COTC COMMUNITY GARDEN MAY 22nd PLANTING EVENT

We are starting the 2021 Community Garden!
If you have compost, rich topsoil, or hay that you can donate
to the Community Garden, please drop it off by the
garden in the next 2 weeks!

We already have tomato plants, cucumbers, zucchini, cilantro,
beans & basil ready to be planted in their new home!
Please join us on **Saturday, May 22nd at 9 am** for this great event!



SPRING WORKDAY MAY 22nd, 9 am – 12 pm

Join us on May 22nd for our Outdoor Spring Workday
and Pizza lunch at noon!



Food Pantry Needs

Juice
Fresh Produce
Condiments
Canned Meat
Tomato Products
Pasta Roni

PHYSICAL DISTANCING COFFEE HOUR



Coffee Hour is back on Sundays!

The Sign-up Sheet is in the lounge or you can email Glenna M. to sign up.
We are asking that you only supply cookies in snack bags, in addition to setting up the coffee.



ZOOM LUNCH WITH PASTOR JULIE

Join us via Zoom every Wednesday at 12 noon for bible study.

We discuss scripture passages for our upcoming worship service.

Contact Pastor Julie for the Zoom access information to join the Zoom session.

May 5	John 15:9-17; Acts 10:44-48
May 12	John 17:6-19; Acts 1:16-17, 21-26
May 19	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15; Acts 2:1-12



ZOOM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Next meetings are on May 12, May 26 & June 23
Meetings start at 7 pm.

Our current study is on the book **ISAIAH Trusting God in Troubled Times**
by Howard Peskett.

We meet via Zoom. We encourage new attendees, so if interested, please
contact Ken G. or Stu R. for access details.

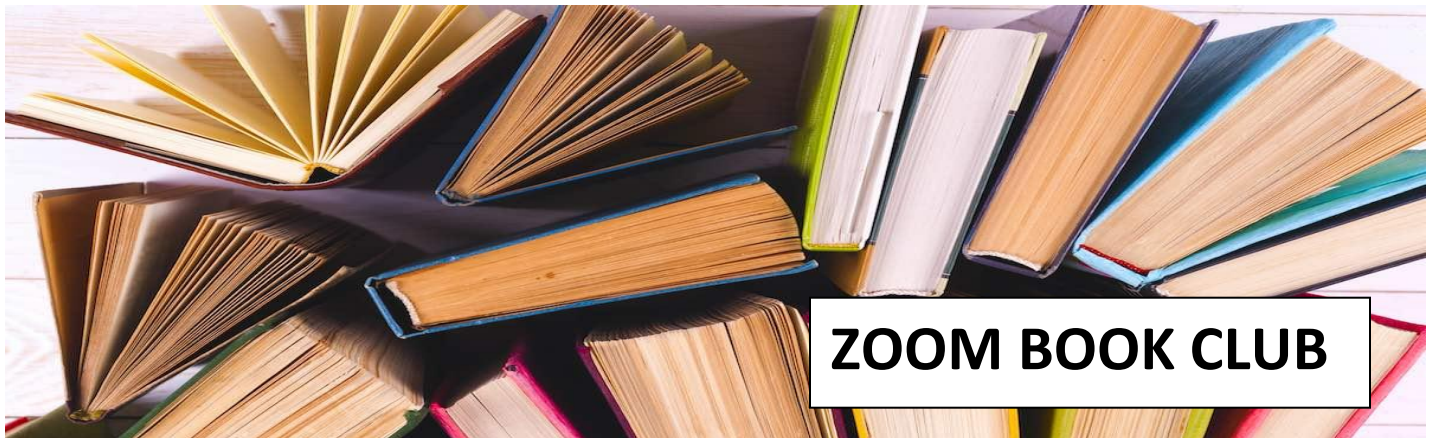


ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**The group meets via Zoom on Sundays at 11:45 am.
Our current study is "Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help
Themselves And Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say"**

by Adam Hamilton.

EVERYONE is invited to join the study! Let Pastor Julie know you are interested, and the Zoom info will be sent directly to you.



ZOOM BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Our current book is **"This Tender Land"** by William Ken Krueger
If you want to be included, please email Judie at judietrue@gmail.com and
she will send you a Zoom invitation.