

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

2 May 2021



I deeply know that I have a home in Jesus. I know, too, that when I abide in Jesus, I abide with him in God. My true spiritual work is to let myself be loved, fully and completely.

*Henri Nouwen*

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

Earth's creator, **Everyday God**,  
Loving Maker, **O Jesus**,  
You who shaped us, **O Spirit**,  
Recreate us, **Come, be with us.**

In your presence, **Everyday God**,  
We are gathered, **O Jesus**,  
You have called us, **O Spirit**,  
To restore us, **Come, be with us.**

Life of all lives, Love of all loves,  
Hope of all hopes, Light of all lights,

In our resting, In our rising,  
In our hoping, In our waiting,

In our dreaming, In our daring,  
In our searching, In our sharing,

God of laughter, God of sorrow,  
Home and shelter, Strong and patient,

Way of freedom, Star of morning,  
Timeless healer, Flame eternal,

Word of gladness, Word of mercy,  
Word of friendship, Word of challenge,

Gentle father, Faithful brother,  
Tender sister, Loving mother,

Our beginning, Our unfolding,  
Our enduring, Journey's ending,

Alleluia, Now and always,  
Alleluia, O Spirit, Through all ages,

*Bernadette Farrell (b1957)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

## ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING WORD TODAY



### The Gospel of John 15:1-8

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

May your word live in us  
**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

O Blessed Spring (The Gift of Love)  
(Tune TiS 536 O Waly, Waly)

O blessed spring, where Word and sign  
Embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
Here Christ enjoins each one to be  
A branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years,  
Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,  
Sustained by Christ’s infusing rain,  
The boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,  
When limbs their heavy harvest hold,  
Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
move  
With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must,  
We breathe our last, return to dust;  
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing  
And trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
Be praised for this blest mystery:  
That Word and water thus revive  
And join us to your Tree of Life.

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## REFLECTION

**1 John 4:16** 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.

### *RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES*

#### **TiS 650**

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard (b1953)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(You will be invited to light a  
Candle and place it in the sand  
as a symbol of your prayer)*

Oh, Lord hear my prayer  
Oh, Lord hear my prayer  
When I call answer me  
Oh, Lord hear my prayer  
Oh, Lord hear my prayer  
Come and listen to me.

### **The Disciples' Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against  
us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.***

(Tune TiS 382 Noel Nouvelet)

Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak,  
when despair and turmoil leave us faint and weak.  
In love you call us back to you again  
and your grace reminds us how you feel our pain

Searching God, you find us when we go astray,  
as self-centred living takes us from your way.  
In love you seek us, show us what we've lost,  
and your tears remind us what forgiveness cost.

Suffering God, you lift us from our deepest grief,  
when emotion blinds us to our own belief.  
In love you touch us with your nail-torn hand  
and your wounds remind us why you understand.

Risen God, you show us love too strong for death,  
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.  
In love you teach us never to despair,  
your new life reminds us, hope is always there.

*Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)*

Loving God,  
you sent your son Jesus into the world  
that we might live through him.  
May we abide in his risen life  
so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another  
and know the fullness of joy.

**Amen**

