

Worship sheet: May 2nd 2021. Written by Pauline and The Stewards

We gather here, O Lord, for you, the vine, to nourish us.
May we, the branches, draw our strength from you,
and grow in harmony, unity, and love.
May we find nourishment through our rootedness
in the life, teachings, and love of Christ.
Receive the fruits of our worship and be glorified. Amen.

Gracious God, we come to you aware of our failings and conscious that we have tried to live
in our own strength.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.

We have resisted the challenge of change and not trusted your truth.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.

We have rooted ourselves in our wills and not in your word.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.

We have looked for quick fixes and not kingdom-shaped growth.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. **Amen.**

**Lord, we thank you that when our faith becomes straggly, you prune it with your wisdom;
when it becomes malnourished, you nurture it with your grace;
when it becomes brittle, you strengthen it with your truth;
when it becomes barren, you restore it with your life-giving energy, forgiveness, and love.
Amen.**

Sing or Read: *Christ is Alive* Let Christians sing

Christ is alive let Christians' sing,
His cross stands empty to the sky
Let streets and homes, with praises ring
His love in death shall never die

Christ is alive, no longer bound
To distant years in Palestine
He comes to claim the here and now
And dwell in every place and time

In every insult, rift and war
Where colour, scorn or wealth divide
He suffers still, yet loves the more
And lives, though ever crucified

Christ is alive and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age
'Til earth and all creation ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise

John 15:1-8

“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 to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed[b] 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.

**Creator God, in you we are all we need to be;
through you we grow into all that we long to be;
with you we bear fruits that can be used and shared and multiplied;
because of you our lives are rich and blessed and fruitful:
so we praise you in song and silence, today and every day.
Amen.**

Sing or read: You are the Vine

You are the Vine, we are the branches,
Keep us abiding in You.
(repeat)

And we'll go, in Your love,
And we'll go in Your Name
That the world will surely know
That You have the power to heal and save.

You are the Vine, we are the branches,
Keep us abiding in You.

Reflection:

God is the gardener, Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. The branches try to show God's love to the world with the help of the Holy Spirit who equips each of us with the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit. As we are all different, we need to work together using our combined gifts to show God's love to the world in the same way that a body uses its many different parts to function properly and completely. The fruits that we need to develop and grow are listed by St Paul in Galatians as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Jesus urged us to remain connected to him, part of the vine, and we do that through prayer. But not just prayer for ourselves and our concerns, as that would be selfish, inward-looking. Remain connected, he said, so that you 'bear much fruit' and become his disciples. Following his command and his example, we are to be interested in the cares and concerns

of others, spreading the good news by word and by example. Praying for those we meet and those we simply pass by, for those who welcome us and those who reject us.

Prayers of intercession

To all those in need of love:

let the love of God be known.

To a world in need of love:

let the love of God be shown.

To those in need of food:

let the love of God be shared.

By those in need of healing:

let the love of God be experienced.

By those in need of peace:

let the love of God be felt.

By those in need of hope:

let the love of God be seen.

To those in need of joy:

let the love of God be sung.

By those in need of justice:

let the love of God be heard.

By all those in need of love:

let the love of God be known.

Amen.

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

Song: The Spirit lives to set us free StF 397

The Spirit lives to set us free
Walk, walk, in the light
He binds us all in unity
Walk, walk, in the light

Chorus

Walk in the light, walk in the light
Walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord

Jesus promised life to all
Walk, walk in the light,
The dead were wakened by his call, Walk, walk in the light
(Repeat chorus)

He died in pain on Calvary
Walk, walk in the light,
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light
(Repeat chorus)

We know his death is not the end
Walk...
He gave his spirit to be our friend
Walk...

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed
Walk...
The Father's kindness is revealed
Walk...
(Repeat chorus)

The Spirit lives in you and me
Walk..
His light will shine for all to see
Walk...
(repeat chorus)

**Abide in God as God abides in you,
then you will bear much fruit;
for apart from God, we can do nothing.
Amen.**

The Blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you, with those you love and with those you ought to love this day and forever more. Amen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pauline". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

and The Stewards