

EAGLE GROVE & GOLDFIELD UMC-- APRIL 28, 2024

WE GATHER

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

*CALLING OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

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

Red #89

*OPENING PRAYER

L: For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

P: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

L: For leaders, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

P: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

L: For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

P: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

L: For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

P: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

L: Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

P: May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen.

Childrens Time with Special Music and Noisy Offering

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY

Psalm 22:25-31, Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:17-21, John 15:1-8

REFLECTION

“Bearing Fruit”

Ann Trimble-Ray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

L: 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!

WE RESPOND

WE GIVE OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS AND OURSELVES

***DOXOLOGY**

Red #95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.

WE GO FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Red #189

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD PRACTICE LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

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.

***WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT**

The Summons

Black #2130

Announcements:

--Join us today for fellowship after the 9:30 service for coffee and treats in the Fireside Room.

Join us for Baptism of Cece Wilde to follow at 11:30.

--Last day for after school is May 15th and last day for youth group May 8th.

--Baccalaureate Sunday is May 12th. We will be honoring graduates Darci Anderson, Grace Johnston, and Brooklyn Osborn. We will be holding a reception for the graduates following the service.

--Noisy offering and children’s special music during worship today.