

United Church of Christ  
California, Missouri

Rev. Eugene Moll  
Mrs. Renée Clifford  
Mrs. Stacy Friedrich  
Rev. Stephen Buchholz

Interim Pastor  
Organist  
Sr. Choir Director  
Guest Minister

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April 29, 2018 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

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*\*All those who are able, please stand.*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles      Cody Schneider      Adler Koestner

Choral Opening

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

In the name of a gracious God, a risen Savior, and an  
empowering Spirit.

**Amen.**

We have come to worship the Great Gardner.

**We are the branches, offshoots of the Vine.**

The Lord our God is the true Vine

**From which we can find our strength.**

We seek to bear fruit that reflects the glory of God.

**Let us worship our Lord in praise.**

\*Hymn No. 48      “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

\*Prayer of the Day

**O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Confession

Let us come before the Divine Gardener confessing our failures and reaching for his compassion and mercy: God of steadfast love,

**We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings that need planting. We know that you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy. You change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy. Help us to germinate a new life, growing with integrity! Help us to sprout a new life, growing with honesty! Help us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!**

\*Words of Assurance

The Divine Gardener, reaches to us to change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy. In Christ, his faithful love is planted in our hearts. Gathered as your community of believers, our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Call to Praise

O Lord, open our lips!

**And our mouths shall show forth your praise!**

\*Act of Praise – “Gloria Patri” (*printed on laminated card in hymnal*)

Invitation to Children's Time

Hymn for Children "Jesus Loves Me"

Children's Time Carla Clennin

Anthem "When We Worship God Through Music" Sr. Choir

Prayer for Illumination Brad Friedrich

**Lord, we would grow with you and bring forth fruit that is pleasing to you as we hear your word and are fed by your living water. Sustain us by these words. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons

*Epistle Reading:* I John 4:7-21 p. 1067

*Gospel Reading:* John 15:1-8 p. 939

Sermon "Abiding and Connected"

\*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

*(printed on laminated card in hymnal)*

\*Hymn No. 252 "O Word of God Incarnate"

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to the Offering

The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory

\*Response "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*(printed on laminated card in hymnal)*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**O God, let these gifts grow to reach the whole world with love. Remain in these gifts, O God, so that future generations might know that we love them as much as we love you. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 56 “Beautiful Savior”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Closing

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude



**Ushers:** Ginnie Medlin, Dale Ratcliff, Robert Barbour, Weston Peters

**Greeters:** David & Lexi Hall

*☞☞ Welcome, visitors! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card (located in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. Thank you! ☞☞*

A **Nursery** is available in the upstairs hallway, just outside the sanctuary. The attendant on duty is Taylor Geiser. The volunteer helper is Amanda Trimble.

**Need some help with hearing?** See an usher at the back of the sanctuary to check out a hearing assisted unit for your personal use in the sanctuary and in the Friendship Hall.

**From the Worship Committee**

We are scheduling special music for the summer months.  
If you would like to participate or know someone who would,  
please contact Lexi Hall at  
796-3931 or dalex1178@aol.com

**Activities: April 29, 2018 – May 6, 2018**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018:**

9:30 a.m. .... Sunday School

10:30 a.m. .... Worship

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018:**

9:00 a.m. .... Prayer Cell

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018:**

9:00 a.m. .... Ministerial Alliance Meeting – First Baptist Church

6:30 p.m. .... Bell Choir / God's Singers

7:30 p.m. .... Sr. Choir

**Thursday, May 3, 2018:**

Noon ..... National Day of Prayer

(Moniteau County Courthouse)

**Sunday, May 6, 2018:**

9:30 a.m. .... Sunday School

10:30 a.m. .... Worship

***Rev. Moll: [themissourimolls@gmail.com](mailto:themissourimolls@gmail.com); Home Phone: 573-782-8203***

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***Website: [www.calmo-ucc.org](http://www.calmo-ucc.org)***

*Please pray for these . . .*

Love & Justice in God's World

**All Those Who Need Our Prayers, including:**

Becky Zuidervaart

Lois Heather

Elsie Meyer

George Reed

Jo Suggs

Billy Meyer

Jerry Grant

Bettie Hall

Danielle Farris

Robert Pace

**All Those Serving in the U.S. Military, including:**

Craig Hall (*Air Force, stationed in N. Carolina*)

Martin Knipker (*son of Kenny Knipker*)

Dwight Bowlin (*grandson of Jack & Carole Bowlin, Fort Campbell, KY*)

Dakota Meyer (*grandson of Elsie & Billy Meyer, stationed in Fort Hood, TX*)

Madelynn Perry (*granddaughter of Jan Anderson, army – in reserves*)

Dylan Ash (*son of Lanny & Ellen Ash, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina*)

Hayden Grant (*grandson of Jerry & Kathy Grant, Air Force, Pensacola, FL*)

(04/26/2018)

*The “Devotions” (June-August 2018)  
& “Upper Room” (May-June 2018) devotional booklets  
are available at the back of the Sanctuary.*