

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
May 10, 2015 EASTER 6
SEED TIME

Remain in me as I remain in you.

Lord of the
one true
Vine,
in you we
live and move
and have our being.
We are your branches,
spindly and slight and fragile.

Please ask your Father to prune us
(though gently).
We want to bear more
of your fruit.

— written by Anne Osdieck,

*“Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord,
and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.” Colossians 1:10*

“Remain in me as I remain in you.”

Gathering: *Lord, we would grow with you* **New shoots reaching out**
Hands stretched upward Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth *Lord, we would grow with you*

Lord, we would grow with you **In sunshine and rain In darkness and light**
In cold days and summer days From Springtime to Winter *Lord, we would grow with you*

Lord, we would grow with you **And bring forth fruit That is pleasing to you**
Fed by your living water Giving sustenance to others

Lord, we would grow with you ~ contemporary Welsh prayer
Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (1-2) **434**

*For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. 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. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.** For the leaders of various nations and cities, 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. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.** For those who serve in harms 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. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.** For those who suffer from any illness or disease - of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health - health as only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love. **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.** For those who are dying, and for those who have died. 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. **May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen** - posted on [RevGalBlogPals](#)*

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (3-4) **434**

Prayer of Confession: *The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion. God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy, **Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!** God of steadfast love, you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy*

Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty! *God of steadfast love, you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy, Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!*

Assurance of Pardon: *Divine Gardener, You tend us in steadfast love, Unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness; you cultivate true friendship with you through boundless forgiveness. In Christ, this 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! ~ written by James E. Janeczek, in *Seeds of Faith*:

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (5) **434**

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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 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.

*John uses the image of a vine and its branches, to help – and challenge – that early community, and ours today, to claim our close relationship with Jesus. In Jesus' time, people would have been familiar with the vine metaphor; it appears in the Hebrew Scriptures several times to describe Israel. But even if contemporary Christians have never tended a vineyard, most of us have seen a grapevine at one time or another. Looking closely, we see the many entwined branches, winding their way around one another in intricate patterns of tight curls that make it impossible to tell where one branch starts or another one ends. This is not just intricate; it's intimate, and the vine shares with its branches the nutrients that sustain it, the life force of the whole plant. Even closer than the shepherd there on the hillside, this vine is one with the branches.*Hymn: God bless your church with strength

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Invitation: *The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.*

Rises without visible connection; roots hidden, promise unknown. Strong to withstand storms, fragile when plucked too soon.

So it is that we grow...

nourished by invisible connections to the living God, called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within. At the table we find our rootedness and connection to all that is divine. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Here is bread; here is wine **546**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.*

(Continue in thanksgiving) O God, giver of all that is good,

We thank you for this bread and this fruit of the vine, symbols of the harvest of your good earth, and we look to the day when we will all eat together as your holy people.

Communion

Prayer following communion: **Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your Easter people. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise (1-2) **556**

Sending: *Jesus said: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am now sending you". Jesus believes in you. The busy world awaits your compassion.*

God believes in us. Sometimes you will give your best yet fail.

God believes in us *At other times you will succeed in spite of your stumbling. God believes in us Go gladly, daring to succeed or fail to the glory of God, and then at the very end, nothing shall dismay you. God*

believes in us. With Christ's own breath within us, we shall travel well. The help of the saving Christ, the wisdom of the Living God, and the support of the loving Spirit, will be with you every step of the way, now and always.
Amen!