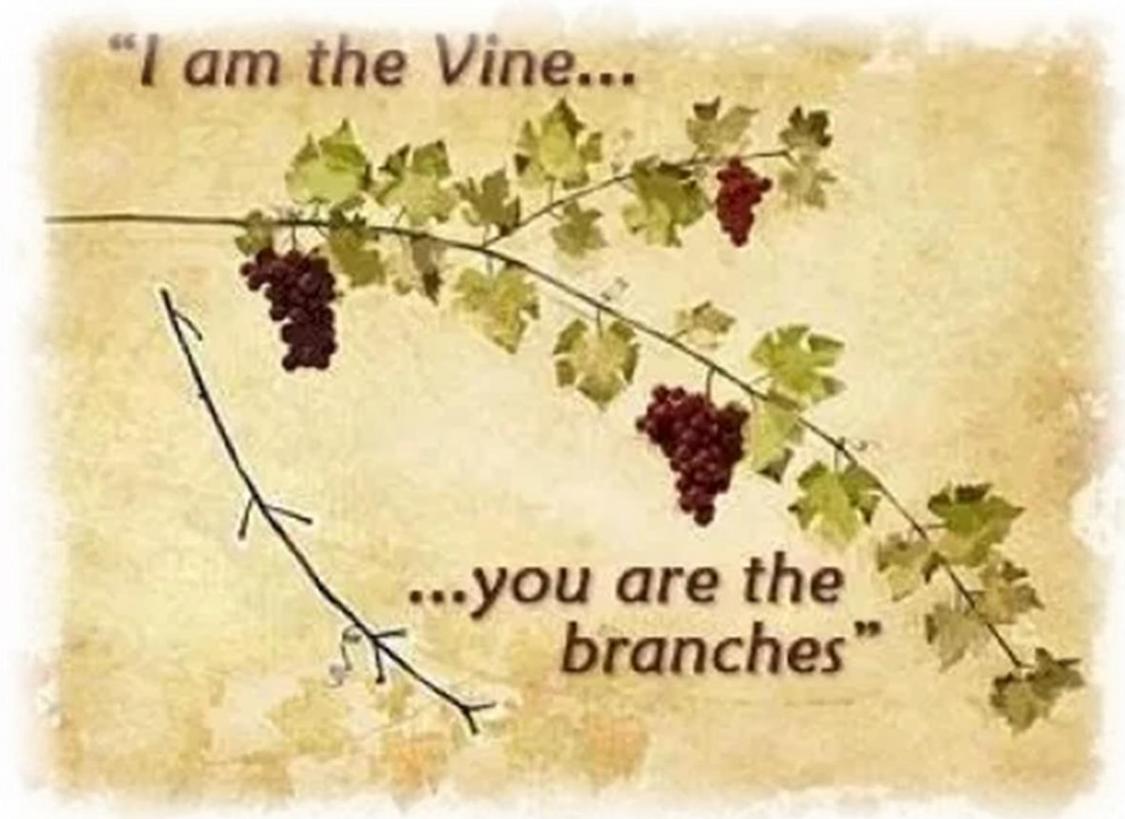


SUMMERLAND UNITED CHURCH
celebrating faith
seeking justice and
serving others in a loving community

A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches
Rev. David Sparks - Presiding
Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 – Easter 5 🌿 10 a.m.



PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey – Summerland United
PowerPoint Presenter: John Bubb, Summerland United
Words of Welcome: Rick Gasior, Summerland United
Scripture Reading: Joan Dodge, Westbank United

GATHERING TIME
INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:45AM
Rev. David Sparks
Rev. David Sparks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL RINGING

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rick Gasior, Summerland United

A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland and Westbank United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other congregations and locations. If there are any visitors today from other congregations or other places, we welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning. If you are comfortable, please unmute yourself and tell us where or what congregation you are from. Please remember to re-mute yourself.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION

Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Rev. David Sparks

We light our candles conscious of the spirit of Christ we know and the down-to earth-spirit of Christ we seek as we worship.

WE SING TOGETHER

You Are the Vine

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is the true vine and God is the vine grower.

We are the branches.

It is God's Word that makes the branches strong.

and the Word bears fruit.

The Word gives rise to action.

And action proves our discipleship.

God celebrates when we act faithfully,

and we give back praise and glory, to God.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 468 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Rev. David Sparks

Where do we see you, O God?

We see you in the most helpless baby, as creator and caregiver.

When do we know you, O God?

**We know you in the laughter and play of growing children,
as the spirit of carefree joy.**

How do we experience you, O God?

**We experience you in mature men and women,
as the renewer of confidence and strength for a new day.**

In whom do we know you, O God?

**We know you as those of later years, the provider
of unforeseen opportunities and as the eternal sign of hope. Amen.**

WE SING TOGETHER

You Are the Vine

GOSPEL READING – Common English Bible

Isaiah 65: 17-22 & John 15: 1-8

Reader: Joan Dodge, Westbank United

**WE SING TOGETHER
REFLECTION**

VU 602 – Bless Be the Tie That Binds
Rev. David Sparks

OUR GIFTS ARE OFFERED

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. David Sparks

Transform these gifts, Loving God, into Christ-purpose and Christ-work.

Into our meditation bring peace and focused listening,

Into our worship bring a depth of thanksgiving, and joyful praise,

Into our faith community bring a readiness to work with other faith communities,

Into our visioning bring a willingness to look forward courageously.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the True Vine, Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

Who is My Mother – MV 178

A PASTORAL PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. David Sparks

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Traditional Version

Our Father, Who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us each day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 424 – May the God of Hope Go with Us Everyday

COMMISSIONING

Rev. David Sparks

Go from here as those who are branches of Jesus the true vine,

Remember Jesus and rejoice.

Remember his sacrifice and be thankful,

remember his compassion and be care-full.

remember his community of disciples, and work together,

remember his sense of justice and stand up to the evil and self-serving ones.

You will be the vine’s ‘good fruit’ and God will smile on you.

BLESSING	Rev. David Sparks
WE SING TOGETHER	You Are the Vine

BREAK INTO CHAT ROOMS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

In Zambia, girls struggle to go to school.



Credit: Women for Change, Zambia

Two Zambian women walk along a road carrying large metal tubs on their heads.

Heavy water drums. Scorching sun. Poor sanitation. Assault. Not being able to attend school. These are some of the issues faced by women and girls in charge of collecting water in Zambia and around the world.

And it's one of many women's issues that Mission & Service partner Women for Change is addressing in Zambia. Every day, your Mission & Service gifts are helping to empower women and girls in rural areas across the country.

Zambia has one of the highest levels of poverty and inequality globally. There, 16.6 million people earn less than \$1.90 per day. Three-quarters of the poor live in rural areas, where women are the hardest hit. Gender discrimination prevents them from accessing land, education, healthcare, and jobs and puts them at higher risk of discrimination and violence.

"Women for Change works with local communities that determine their own needs. In one community, accessing safe water is a problem. So Women for Change is drilling wells and implementing clean-up processes. In another area, there is a lack of women's leadership. So the organization is training women to become political leaders. Girls' education is also a major concern," says Japhet Ndhlovu, who heads the United Church's Community In Mission Unit.

In Zambia, girls struggle to go to school. Traditional attitudes, poverty, early marriage, and priorities to educate boys means too many girls drop out. In 2018, the national United Church Women decided to do something about it. Through Women for Change, our church women are actively supporting an education program designed to motivate girls to stay in school. The project encourages girls, trains teachers, and impresses upon parents and leaders the importance of education.

Women for Change is just one of several life-changing organizations your special gifts to Mission & Service this Mother's Day will support.

When you give a special Mother's Day gift, you will directly help families in need at home and around the world through education, health clinics, respite care, and safe shelter. Give a gift offline or online at united-church.ca/donation. Don't forget to credit your congregation! When you give online, you can send a free e-card to honour, support, remember, or recognize your loved one.

Your support changes lives! Thank you.