

***THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ALMADEN VALLEY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter***



Abide In Me

John 15:5-10

If you keep My commandments,
you will abide in My love.

**An Order of Worship for May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome

Message from Debbie

Sounding of the Bell

Prelude

Ilya Blinov

Lighting of the Peace Candle

*In silence we light the peace candle.
May its light illuminate the path of peace and justice for God's creation.*

***Call to Worship**

David Hough

As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

We come with hope for renewal.

In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.

Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

***Invocation**

David Hough

Cultivating God,

We come as your children to grow and learn.

We desire for you to abide within us,
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

We ask you to nourish us for continued growth.

May you transform our hearts and minds

as we hear your Word, sing your praises,

and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

and may we truly know the love of Jesus Christ,

and abide in that love forever. Amen

Opening Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

CH #113

Reading from the New Testament 1 John 4:7-19 Common English Bible

⁷ Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God,
and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.

⁸ The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ This is how the love of God is revealed to us:

God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him.

Bold Print indicates congregation responds

NOTE CH= Chalice Hymnal , NCH = New Century Hymnal

¹⁰ This is love: it is not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

¹² No one has ever seen God.

If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.

¹³ This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us,
because he has given us a measure of his Spirit.

¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son
to be the savior of the world.

¹⁵ If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son,
God remains in us and we remain in God.

¹⁶ We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.
God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God
and God remains in them.

¹⁷ This is how love has been perfected in us,
so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day,
because we are exactly the same as God is in this world.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear,
because fear expects punishment.

The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because God first loved us.

Response

Thy Word

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Special Music

Ilya Blinov

Reflection

“If You’re Going to Live in My Love...”

Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes,
A Sermon for Every Sunday

Hymn of Response

My Jesus I Love Thee

CH #349

Pastoral Prayer

Read by Debbie Bemis

Lord’s Prayer

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 this day our daily bread -- and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering*Debbie Bemis**

Today we are invited to become deeply attached and connected with a spirit of love by helping each other, reaching out to each other, and encouraging each other in our daily faith pilgrimage.

Let our offering lift up one another in God's love that abides in times of sadness, loss, and grief.

Let our offering lift up one another in God's love that abides in times of hopelessness, brokenness, and failure.

Let our offering be a thanksgiving of God's love that abides within us: times of hopefulness, forgiveness, unity, and peace.

And let us accept God's invitation to be ever-present in times of deep despair, and in times of great joy.

Now let us offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, Representing the abiding goodness of God.

Doxology***OLD HUNDREDTH***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Dedication of our Offerings**

Generous God,

We offer you the fruits of our time, talents and resources in celebration of all that we have been given.

Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on the fruits we have given back to help meet the needs of your beloved community.

May the gifts nourish and strengthen the community to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn**They'll Know We Are Christians****CH #494*****Benediction****Debbie Bemis**

Let us go forth, thankful that we have come.

Let us go forth, renewed in God's abiding love.

And let us go forth rejoicing in the Good News, of Jesus Christ, whose love will never let us go. Amen.

Shalom**Peace I Leave With You**

Peace I leave with you, my friends; Shalom, my peace in all you do;
Peace I leave with you, my friends; I give to you, so you can give to others too.

Postlude**Ilya Blinov**

Words of Dismissal: *Worship has ended, let the service begin!*

* Worship materials:

Abiding in Love: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach and adapted for this service. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

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Welcome to our church, a sacred space where, indeed, all are welcome. A special greeting if you are a visitor with us today.

Worship Leader: Debbie Bemis

Guest Preacher: Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes

Reader: David Hough

Special Music: Ilya Blinov

IT and Social Media Guru: Kelly Yamanishi

CCAV Connections: check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CCAVUCC>

BIRTHDAYS: Judy Martin 05/02, Mike Moore 05/02, Thyra Tegner 05/04, Alison Yamanishi 05/08, Hannah Yamanishi 05/11, Jan Blake 05/13, Dennis Elliott 05/20, Clare Runge 05/20, Tom Gerber 05/28, Bessie Hutchins 05/30, Laurel Gilbert 05/30

ANNIVERSARIES: Norbert and Perla Runge 05/15

Contacting each other: Ruthanne is working from home. If you need to call the “office,” please use her cell phone as the work number: (408) 482-4014. Please also feel free to reach out to Debbie Bemis via email, text, or phone. Debbie’s cell number is: (408) 425-5272, and her email is: debbiebemis@gmail.com Don’t hesitate to reach out or check in as needed. Debbie would love to hear from you.

Needs? Do you need someone to pick something up for you? Do you need a ride somewhere? Would you appreciate a listening ear? Would you like a friendly chat? Do you need something taken care in your home that is difficult for you to do yourself? Are you feeling anxious and need a friend? Please call Debbie — or anyone on council — to let us know how we can support you. I guarantee someone will respond and will offer you the support you are looking for.

Pray for one another and the world:

Please send your prayer concerns to Debbie and/or Phyllis Chai so we can add them to our list and keep connected with one another through prayer.

This week's prayers - 4/21/21

* Prayers of comfort for Pauline's sister, Wendy, who has breast cancer and who now is having spinal pain. Prayers also for Pauline, who is unable to travel to Canada to be with her sister.

* Prayers of thanksgiving for how well Rob H. is doing, and for his family, including his parents John and Diane, as they make future plans to spend as much quality time together as they can.

* Prayers of support for Ted and Risa, who are planning to move to Texas in early May.

* Prayers of comfort for Dona, former college roommate of Linda F, who recently suffered a major stroke and is making slow progress.

* Special thoughts for Kathy G, who mentioned that this week is the 10th anniversary of her husband's death from brain cancer.

* Prayers of thanksgiving for Betty's brother Jerry, who seems to be doing better, although Betty asks that we keep praying for his health challenges.

* Prayers of thanksgiving for leading us to Rev. Shelly Wilson, and prayers of peace and support for Shelly as she finishes up two ministries, packs up her home for a move across the country, and embarks on a new ministry with us in a very unique situation.

Rest in Peace -

* Prayers for Barbara A, former CCAV member, and her family, as they grieve the recent loss of Barbara's brother.

* Prayers of peace and comfort for the families of all who have lost their lives to COVID-19 in the United States and throughout the world.

Continued Prayers – 4/21/21

Prayers for Healing and Health Challenges

Rob H., Maria B., Sandy, Letty, Lee C., Carolyn C., Lily R., Cheryl, Bob H, Jerry and wife Kathy, Sandra M., Win H., Karen, Eden, Gwen H., Amy, Cora and family, Adam and wife Kelli, Honey, Debbie (Linda F's niece), Paulie, Marion (friend of Mike and Connie), Lucy B., Linda F., Marty, Sue, and Steve

Prayers for Those at Home

Shirley L., Audrey W., Bessie H., Charles K., Rae and Dave H., Dot A., Joan O., Dick & Jean S., Bob & Phyllis G.

Prayers for Those Affected by COVID-19

Health care providers, including Jayne K. and Andrea. Jason, those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19

**JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIP WITH
OUR ECA FAITH COMMUNITY**

You are invited to join the **Meditation Group on Zoom on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 am**. Focus: to spend **20 min of silence together** in the presence of our Creator. **We find unity by being quiet together**. All faiths and those with no faith tradition are invited. You may invite friends. Questions: contact Marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com

CCAV Pastor vacant
 CCAV Moderator Debbie Bemis (debbiebemis@gmail.com)
 Music Director/Pianist Ilya Blinov
 JV Handbell Director Ruthanne Adams Martinez
 CCAV Folk Music Director John Hawes
 Webmaster www.ccavucc.org Kelly Yamanishi
 JV Administrative Assistant Ruthanne Adams Martinez
 (office@jointventurechurches.org)

Church Address: 6581 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120 www.ccavucc.org

Check out our Facebook page: Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC.
<https://www.facebook.com/CCAUVUCC>

We extend a special welcome if you are a visitor with us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex and speak to our ushers regarding more information about our church. We share our “open and affirming statement” and want you to know that “wherever you are along your life’s journey, whatever your name, however you feel, you are welcome here.”



Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of The Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ, seek a deeper understanding of God’s grace as it moves through the life of our church. We are called by Christ and empowered by God to love all people and affirm the sacred worth and dignity of each individual. We invite into the full life and ministry of our church all people, recognizing no boundaries of age, race, education, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance or family structure. We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding, and we respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.

