

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

Roger Leighton, Moderator

*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

May 3, 2015

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Prelude

Ringing Of The Bell

Word of Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Musical Meditation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: God is the Gardener, and God is planting something new;

People: In this time of worship, may we grow in Christ.

Liturgist: God is pruning us back so we may bear fruit;

**People: In this time of worship, may we repent, and know
God's forgiveness.**

Liturgist: God is nurturing us with water and Spirit, that we
may blossom;

**People: In this time of worship, may we praise our Creator
and Sustainer!**

***The Hymn**

"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"

#17

***The Prayer of Invocation-Unison**

**Wondrous Vinegrower, You make all things new in water and
Word, feeding Your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us
today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to
love what You have commanded and to prune what does not**

nourish Your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

***An Act of Praise**

“Alleluia”

The Collect - Unison

Come, Holy Spirit, that through Your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Acts 8:26-40

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1 John 4:7-21

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Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 15:1-8

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Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Anthem

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

The Homily

"Connected and Growing"

***The Hymn**

"Called As Partners In Christ's Service"

#495

The Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Silent Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Response

"Here Our Prayer, O God"

The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings

The Offertory

***The Offertory Response**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

***The Prayer of Dedication - Unison**

**From You comes every gift we need, every blessing we have.
May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to
You, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the
despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Approach

Liturgist: When they needed to hear it, Christ told his friends:

I am the vine. No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, you are part of this vine. Come to taste
and see. Come to find yourself among the branches.
Come to this table to grow again.

**People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Come
from the east and the west, the north and the south
and gather about Christ's table.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Liturgist: As much as we are loved by our God,

People: so we are to love one another!

Liturgist: Beloved of God, come to this Table with your
hearts wide open.

People: For God has promised to dwell in us.

Liturgist: Here at the Table of wonder and grace,
we are fed by the One who loves us.

**People: Though we have never seen God, we know
and testify to the One who gives us all we need.**

Liturgist: When light pierced the shadows of chaos,
when waters sliced through valleys, it was in
those moments that Your creative love was
revealed for all time, Abiding God. Even though

You loved us first, we desired the temptations of the world more, getting up and wandering along the dusty way of death. Prophets came to be our guides, seeking to help us understand Your great love for us, but our fears cast their words far away from our hearts. Then, as an everlasting sign of love, You sent Jesus to be among us, the True Vine who would bear the fruits of redemption and grace.

So, with those who have gone down to the dust, and with all the generations yet to come, we join our voices, singing Your praises:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and peace.
All the ends of the earth sing of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes to guide our way.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Liturgist: Holy are You, God of every moment, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the Vine of life and hope. When He told stories of branches that would bend from the weight of grace; when His perfect nature showed us we could cast off sin's fears; when He went down into death's dust, that we might be reshaped in Your image, it was in those moments that Your sacrificial love was revealed for all time. So, as we come to the Table, as we remember His life, death, and sing of His resurrection we proclaim to all the generations to come that mystery we call faith:

**All: Christ walked the wilderness road to death;
Christ cast aside the grave, raised to life;
Christ will come again to guide us to glory.**

Liturgist: When we gather at the Table, where Your Spirit has been poured out upon the generous gifts of bread and cup; when we are strengthened by the bread, and then go forth to work so the poor can eat and be satisfied; when grace overflows from the cup and like a roaring river, carries justice into all the places of inequity and oppression; when Your hope casts out all our fears, so we can stand beside our sisters and brothers: it is in these moments that Your sanctifying love is revealed for all time.

And when all moments have stopped, all the ends of creation will remember Your grace; when families of every time and place gather around the Feast of the Lamb; our hearts will love forever, abiding in Your love, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Prayer Of Our Savior - Singing

**Our Father, Which 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.**

The Communion (Grape Juice in center of tray-Bread is Gluten Free)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving - Unison

Liturgist: May Jesus, the true Savior of the world, who died for us

and is seated in glory, dwell in your hearts through the Holy Spirit, that you may be wholly alive in Him, through living faith and perfect love.

People: Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***The Hymn** "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" #86

***The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

Go, filled with God's everlasting love, Jesus' indwelling presence, and the Holy Spirit's renewing power.

People: Alleluia, Amen!

***The Benediction Response** "Let There Be Peace On Earth
"Laminated Card In Pew Rack"

***The Postlude**