

Our Abiding Need

We live in a culture that values the can-do attitude. While this may be a formula for success in the world, for the Christian it spells disaster. Jesus couldn't make it plainer. "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me" (John 15:4). Moreover, "apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Fruitfulness is not our achievement; it is a result of who we are connected to, like a branch connected to a grapevine. Jesus doesn't say explicitly what he means by fruit. But in other passages in the New Testament we can draw a solid inference from fruit to character traits. John the Baptist commands his hearers to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Jesus tells his disciples that they will recognize true and false prophets by their fruits (Matthew 7:15-20). Paul compares the fruit believers had in their former life, of which they are now ashamed, with that which they now experience leading to sanctification and eternal life (Romans 6:21, 22). He lists the fruit of the Spirit as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22). We are to be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:11).

Such fruit is the result of staying put and drinking in. We must stay put—abide—in Christ, just as a branch stays right where it is, firmly attached to the vine. But we must also drink in the life-giving nourishment that flows from the vine to the branches—in our case, the very words of Christ himself (vs. 7). Just as Mary sat at Jesus' feet, drinking in every word he spoke (Luke 10:39), so we should be opening our mouth wide so that he can fill it.

This means doing more than lightly skimming the Gospels. We must sit down and think deeply about his words. We must meditate. Not only will this deepen our understanding, it will revolutionize our prayer life (vs. 7)

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 368 *“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 170 *“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 512 *“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 308 *“Jesus Paid It All”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 44:6-23, pew Bible p. 604

Sermon REMEMBER THESE THINGS

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 420 *“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”*

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 55 *“To God Be the Glory”*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.