**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**PREACHER: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Choral Prelude***

1. MV #18 *“Lord Prepare Me”* (2x)

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.**

1. MV# 21 *“Open Our Hearts”* (2x)

**Open our hearts, open our minds. Open our lives to you,**

**O loving God. Open our hearts. (Open our hearts.)**

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Hymn:* VU #232** “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing of the Peace*** (**VU#958** *“Halle, Halle, Halle”* )

***Welcome***

***Life and Work of the Church*** (see insert)

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship*** Psalm 22:25-31 **VU p. 746**  (Parts 3 & 4)

***Silence***

***Prayers of the Faithful***

***Intercessory Prayer***

We have prayed all these through Christ Jesus our Lord; He is the One who taught us to pray saying … “**Our Father …”**

***The Lord’s Prayer*** (sung) **VU #960**

***Anthem:*** Senior Choir

***Circle Time*** *(with the Children)*

***\* Children’s Hymn of Praise:* VU#87** *“I Am the Light of the World”* (2x)

 **I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!**

 **If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery**

 **of what you were meant to do and be.**

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings***

New Testament: Acts 8:26–40

Reader: This is the Word of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 15:1–8

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

**All: We praise You, O Christ.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation:* VU #671** *“I Need Thee Every Hour”*

***The Message:* “Being Plugged In**”

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Hymn/Song of Dedication***

 **God of love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring you.**

 **May our lives do your will, guide and guard us forever.**

 **Give us courage to stand for truth, help us give to others.**

 **God of love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring you.**

***Offertory Prayer***

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*  VU #506** *“Take My Life and Let It Be”*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:* MV# 214***“May God’s Sheltering Wings”*

 ***May God’s sheltering wings, his gathering wings protect you.***

 ***May God’s nurturing arms, his cradling arms sustain you,***

 ***and hold you in his love, and hold you in his love.***

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

God is still working through the followers of Jesus Christ to accomplish God’s work and purpose in the world today. This can only happen if we stay plugged in the Lord. As a branch of a tree cannot survive or bear fruit unless it continues to be part of the tree, so the Lord expects us to remain in Him to be fruitful.

1. **“If anyone is *in* Christ, he is a new creation”**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

A lesson about Relationship

1. **“No branch can *bear fruit* by itself. It must remain joined to the vine”**

(John 15:3)

A lesson about Reproductive

1. **“Now *remain* in my love”**

(John 15:9)

A lesson about Responsibility

1. **“He cuts off … He *prunes* …”**

(John 15:2)

A lesson abo

ut Reality/Renewal

**Think about this**

* Abiding in Him leads to vitality and fruitfulness. Are you plugged in?
* Purifying and pruning are not fun stuff, but that is what the Lord does if we are to be plugged in and bear fruit.

**First United Church**

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of Christian faith, proclaiming and celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

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*Sunday, April 29, 2018*

*10:30am*

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*MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*