



*I Am the Vine by Mark Jennings*

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - 10:30 AM  
APRIL 28, 2024  
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511  
[www.carypresbyterian.org](http://www.carypresbyterian.org)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP — 10:30 A.M.

## Gathering

(\* Please stand as you are able.)

### Gathering Chime

#### Prelude

*Andante in F Major*

Koch

### Welcome and Announcements

#### The History of Stephen Ministry

Donna Adkins and Len Clark

### \*Congregational Introit *Christ Has Risen*

1. Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers,  
Christ has ris - en where hope died, as he said and  
as he prom - ised, as we doubt - ed  
and de - nied. Let the moon em - brace the bless - ing;  
let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the world con -  
firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!

CCLI No.: 3015474

### \*Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

**Let the sound of praise ring out.**

Come and hear what the Lord has done,

**the Lord who has made everything!**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God,  
we do not always keep your commandments;  
we fail to love you;  
our conscience is not clear.  
Wash us in the water of life  
that we may live again  
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,  
our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

**Kyrie**

*Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Forgive us, Lord, we pray.  
Teach us to trust your promise  
and to believe the good news of salvation:  
**Christ is alive; Jesus is risen from the dead. Amen.**

**\*Response**

*Exsultet*

Liam Lawton

Re - joice, re - joice,  
gone for-ev-er is the night! Re - joice, re -  
joice, ris - en is the Lord of light!

## Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 98

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture Reading** John 15:9-17

**The Message** *Abide and Bear Fruit* Paul Lang

\***Hymn** *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* No. 703

\***Affirmation of Faith** *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments.  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**Time with Our Children**

Jen Pierce

## **Responding**

### **Offering**

### **Offertory**

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*

Simon

*(A favorite of Stephen Ministry founder Rev. Dr. David Voss, sung in his memory)*

Maggie Burgess, Paul Burgess & Len Clark

*When you're weary, feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all.  
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough, and friends just can't be found,  
Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down.*

*When you're down and out, when you're on the street, when evening falls so hard, I  
will comfort you. I'll take your part, oh, when darkness comes, and pain is all around  
Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down.*

*Sail on Silver Girl, sail on by. Your time has come to shine,  
all your dreams are on their way.*

*See how they shine, oh, if you need a friend, I'm sailing right behind*

*Like a bridge over troubled water, I will ease your mind. Ease your mind.*

**\*Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***  
***Praise God, all creatures high and low.***  
***Alleluia! Alleluia!***  
***Praise God, in Jesus fully known;***  
***Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***  
***Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

No. 609

## Prayer of Dedication

### Litany for Stephen Ministry

*"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22*

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. God cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit God prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**God, we thank you for the gift of Stephen Ministry at Cary Presbyterian Church and rest in the knowledge that you tend to each of us, pruning us as needed to bear much fruit.**

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

**We walk with others who hurt and ache. Keep us closely united with you, the true Gardener. God of compassion, your listening ear is bent toward those who suffer.**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**We know that each joy and sorrow is our joy and sorrow, and our joy and sorrow also belong to others. Let us stay close to your life-giving, fruit-producing love, the source of all goodness.**

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**We recommit ourselves to caring for others. May we draw our strength and courage from our communion with You.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

**Teach us how to turn toward those in need with a loving presence, a listening ear, and genuine understanding.**

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**Incline us to remain in your love, to bear much fruit, to open ourselves to pruning, and to offer open hands and willing hearts.**



# THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: [www.carypresbyterian.org](http://www.carypresbyterian.org)

<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.  10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	<b>Parlor Class</b> <b>Faith Formation: Pre-K – Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing)</b> <b>Adult FF: ‘CPC Reads’ Documentary and Discussion (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> <b>Stephen Ministry Reception (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>Next Chapter Group (100)</b> <b>Christian Adventurers Activity</b>
<b>Monday, April 29</b>	11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>Staff Meeting (Parlor)</b> <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds Team (100)</b> <b>Girl Scout Troop 362 &amp; 355 (Youth Area)</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Triple F Lunch (Pam’s Farmhouse, Raleigh)</b> <b>Scout Troop 232B (Youth Area)</b> <i>No Adult Virtual Class (Zoom)</i>
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Music Group (100)</b> <b>Stephen Ministry (100/102/106)</b>
<b>Friday, May 3</b>	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Centering Prayer Group (Parlor)</b> <b>Al-Anon / Courage, Strength, &amp; Hope (Library)</b>
<b>Saturday, May 4</b>	7:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	<b>Men’s Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>ASP Workday (Off-site: Location TBD)</b> <b>Hygiene Kit Assembly (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>Caring Place Event (CPC Grounds/FH)</b>
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.  10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	<b>Parlor Class</b> <b>Faith Formation: Pre-K – Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing)</b> <b>Adult FF: ‘CPC Reads’ Documentary and Discussion (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> <b>Graduates’ Reception (Fellowship Hall)</b> <b>Christian Adventurers Activity</b>

## Today’s Worship Service Participants

Minister: Rev. Paul Lang, Rev. Paul Burgess

Music Director: Ed Yasick

Worship Leaders: Lex Lundergan, Sam Boswell

Vocal Trio: Maggie Burgess, Paul Burgess, Len Clark

Time with Our Children: Jen Pierce

Ushers: Scott Walker, Leah Burton,

Su Johnson, Mary Walker

Tech: Ian Dunbar, Ken Worsham

Slides: Beth Cleveland