

**A PLACE
TO BELONG**

Connected

John 15:1-8



April 28th, 2024



April 28, 2024



**Rev. Alyssa Baker, Pastor
Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director
Jason Caffarella, Choir Director**



“Love one another as I have loved you”

John 13:34

At Albany First United Methodist Church, Jesus calls us to affirm that everyone is a beloved child of God, worthy of love and belonging. We celebrate humanity’s diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, economic status, family status, political identity, physical and mental ability. We welcome all into the full life, leadership and ministries of the congregation.

Whoever you are, we invite you to share your faith journey with us as we strive to be the inclusive church God calls us to be in our community and the world.

**A PLACE
TO BELONG**

EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

April 14th: Luke 24:36–48

April 21st: John 10:11–18

April 28th: John 15:1–8

May 5th: John 9–17

May 12th: John 17:6–19

May 19th: Acts 2:1–21



Welcome!

Welcome

Debbie Maddy

Gathering Song: *Where Children Belong*

TFWS #2233

Call to Worship

Debbie Maddy

As members of Christ's tree of life,

we are connected, in love, to God.

As members of Christ's tree of life,

we are connected, in love, to one another.

As members of Christ's tree of life,

we strengthen our connection through worship.

Opening Prayer

Debbie Maddy

As members of Christ's tree of life, we are connected, in love, to God. As members of Christ's tree of life, we are connected, in love, to one another. As members of Christ's tree of life, we strengthen our connection through worship.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and share signs of Christ's peace.

(Listen for Eric to lead us into our opening hymn.)

*Hymn: *O Church of God, United*

UMH #547

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Terrie Sanderson

1-3 "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

4 "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5-8 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

Anthem: *When We Gather at the Table*

Chancel Choir

Sermon: "Staying Connected: You, Me, and the Divine Vine"

Eric McKirdy

***Hymn:** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

UMH #344

Prayer

Terrie Sanderson

The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response: *United in the Vine*

Chancel Choir

Offering

We thank and celebrate each of you who gives back to God, supports our spiritual community, and helps others through your financial support. You may donate at the in-person worship service or mail checks to Albany FUMC, 1115 28th Ave. SW, Albany, OR 97321. You may also donate through the GivePlus mobile app or our website at albanymethodist.org. Thank you for your generosity and financial support!

Offering Prayer:

Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Jesus, United by Thy Grace*

UMH #561

Closing Blessing

Terrie Sanderson

Postlude



Beu, B.J., and Mary Scifres. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024. Available from: Cokesbury, United Methodist Publishing House - CoreSource Plus, 2023.

Ministry Matters. 10 Apr. 2012, www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2706/worship-elements-april-28-2024. Accessed 21 Apr. 2024.

Where Children Belong ©1999 Abingdon Press. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense A-736674.
O Church of God, United ©1954 Hymn Society in the US & Canada. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense A-736674.
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore ©1979,1987 Oregon Catholic Press. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense A-736674.
Jesus, United by Thy Grace ©Public Domain