



# Welcome

Sunday 29th April  
5th Sunday of Easter

St Leonard's



## Café News April 2018

*We warmly welcome you to Café Church  
please take a seat and enjoy a drink and some refreshments  
as we worship and fellowship together*

Our theme for today focuses in on one of the "I am" statements of Jesus. In John's Gospel it is recorded that Jesus said "I am ....." seven times. I am the bread of life, the light of the world, the Good Shepherd and so on. Using these statements Jesus was declaring and revealing who he was to those who had ears to hear him.

Today we read and hear Jesus declare "I am the Vine and you are the branches" What did he mean by this statement? and how does this apply to us today as we gather here to worship the Great I am, our risen Lord and Saviour?

### Welcome

### Prayer Starter

Let us be still;

Come let us worship  
the God of Resurrection power  
and rejoice in his presence  
and the hope God gives us.

Redeeming God,  
**Gather us in, the lost and the lonely,  
the broken and breaking,  
the tired and the aching,  
the young and the old,  
the stranger and the friend.**

Forgive us and heal us,  
strengthen and renew us  
For we are one family  
with Christ Jesus as our head.  
Amen.

### Songs

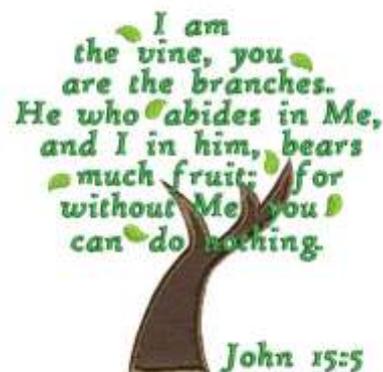
**AS WE ARE GATHERED** Jesus is here;  
One with each other, Jesus is here.  
Joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood,  
Part of the body, the church of God.  
As we are gathered Jesus is here,  
One with each other, Jesus is here.

**MAJESTY**, worship His majesty,  
Unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority,  
Flow from His throne unto His own,  
His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.



## A Prayer for today

Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the true vine of love,  
Give us grace to abide in his love,  
to love one another  
and to bear good fruit  
for the glory of your Kingdom  
Amen.



## Today's Reading - John 15: 1-8 I am the Vine

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 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.

5 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. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## Questions to chew over?

Spend a few moments in quiet,  
reread the passage and consider the following questions.

*After a minute or two begin to discuss your thoughts with those at your table.*

What did you last prune – and when?

Was the pruning beneficial to the plant?

God calls us to be fruitful, so what type of fruit are we to bear?

What might God want to prune in your life?

How might our community become more fruitful?

## Our Prayers for Today

Using the picture of the Vine and branches, draw leaves on the branches and write within them places and people that you feel called to pray for today. Pray for friends and family, world leaders and community leaders, for groups and activities. Pray also for yourself and your church and our life together in this community.

*Let us Pray:*

Saviour God, you came to forgive us our sins  
and to show us the path we should follow  
through the highs and lows  
of all that life throws at us.  
**For this we give you thanks and praise.**

Holy Spirit, you were sent to equip us  
for the task ahead  
and to get us into shape for the journey ahead,  
challenging us, pruning us and encouraging us.  
**For this we give you thanks and praise.**

Help us to abide in love and to love one another;  
and to bear fruit for the good of your Kingdom  
**because love comes from God.**

Let us love the people in our lives:  
our friends and families,  
teachers and workmates;  
**because love comes from God.**

Let us love the community in which we live,  
the groups we belong to,  
and the places where we go;  
**because love comes from God.**

Let us love the world around us,  
and tend and care for it.  
**because love comes from God**

Lord Jesus,  
**You are the vine  
and we are the  
branches;  
help us to abide in you;  
in your words  
and in your love.  
Amen.**



### **Song**

ABIDE WITH ME, fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens,  
Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless,  
O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim,  
its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not,  
abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace  
can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide  
and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine,  
O abide with me.

I fear no foe,  
with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight,  
and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Reveal Thyself  
before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom,  
and point me to the skies,  
Heaven's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord,  
abide with me.

## Offering Prayer

We present our offerings to the Lord  
and pray together:

**Generous God,  
accept these offerings  
for the work of your Church  
may they be used wisely  
for the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children and  
welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love  
upon the cross and made for all  
the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat;  
this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant, which is  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising  
in glory, send your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and on this bread and this wine that they may be  
to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we  
offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice  
to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest**

## Breaking of the Bread

As we break this bread and drink this wine  
we declare that Jesus stands before us,  
with arms outstretched  
and invites us to receive  
and to remember him  
**Amen**

## Distribution of Communion

*All are welcome to receive bread and wine  
as it is passed around the tables*

## Blessing

Song:

**THERE IS A REDEEMER,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.**

*Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit—  
Till the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.**

**When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place.**

## Sending out

**Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord  
in the name of Christ Amen**

