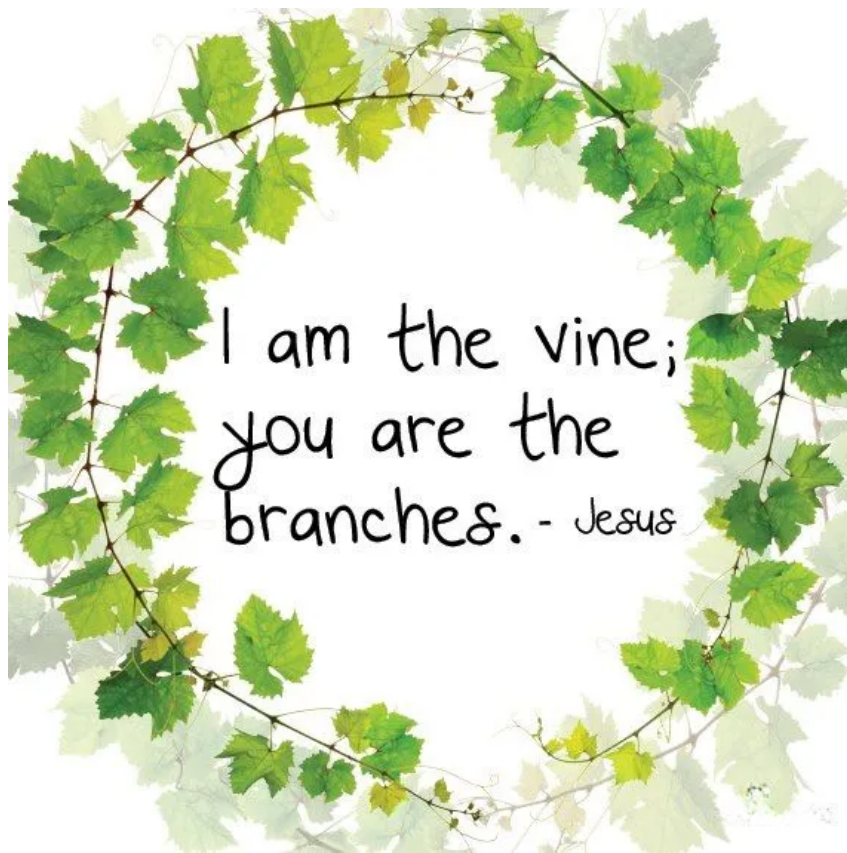




An Inclusive Christian Community
feeding the spiritual and physical hunger of Oakland.

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I Am The Vine; You Are The Branches

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July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Jesus Loves Even Me

Philip P. Bliss

Welcome

Tom Huetteman

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Kathleen Bell

Leader: Gather round, we have a story to hear
of one who reached inside himself
and took a handful of love,
like a pile of stardust,
and said: this is for you.
It is all you need.
It is all you will ever need.
There is enough here to change the whole world.
Take it.

People: Some dare to take it

and those who have,

notice something about this love.

They find they can stand with the lost,

welcome the traveler, eat with the hungry,

give something of themselves to others.

And as they offer themselves

many take that invitation and many trust.

All: It is enough to change the whole world. Amen

Roddy Hamilton (adapted)

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

How Can We Name a Love
UMH 111

**1. How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world, in every human face,
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.**

**2. If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.**

**3. When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.**

**4. So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

John 15:1-5 NRSVUE

Kathleen Bell

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 NRSVUE

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Sermon

I Am The Vine; You Are The Branches

Rev. Motoe Yamada Foor

Prayers & Gratitudes

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193 (3x)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

The Lord's Prayer Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

**Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.*

Our *Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Passing The Peace Of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

Living As the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving

Bless Thou the Gifts

UMH 587 (2x)

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in thy hand.**

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

Song of Hope (Canto de Esperanza)

TFWS 2186

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz,
al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.
Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.**

**Oremos por la paz,
cantemos de tu amor.
Luchemos por las paz,
fieles a ti, Señor.**

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Kathleen Bell

Leader: Go now, and love one another, because love is from God.
Proclaim God's salvation to every generation.

**People: We remain in Jesus Christ,
and like branches of a vine,
draw our life from him.**

Leader: And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

All: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Nathan Nettleton

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

William H. Doane
arr. Mary McDonald