

John Newton (1725-1807)

I asked the Lord that I might grow  
In faith, and love, and every grace;  
Might more of His salvation know,  
And seek, more earnestly, His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,  
And He, I trust, has answered prayer!  
But it has been in such a way,  
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour,  
At once He'd answer my request;  
And by His love's constraining pow'r,  
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel  
The hidden evils of my heart;  
And let the angry pow'rs of hell  
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed  
Intent to aggravate my woe;  
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,  
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cried,  
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?  
"Tis in this way, the Lord replied,  
I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ,  
From self, and pride, to set thee free;  
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,  
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."



October 16, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## The Pruning

EVERY BRANCH  
THAT DOES  
BEAR FRUIT,  
HE PRUNES  
TO MAKE IT  
EVEN MORE  
FRUITFUL.

JOHN 15:2

# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

### Call To Worship

### Hymns of Praise

"Holy Forever". . . . . Tomlin/Ingram/Wickham/Johnson

"Holy Holy Holy". . . . . Heber/Dykes

### Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:**Philippians 2:5-11

### Song of Praise

"All Because of Jesus". . . . . Steve Fee

### Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

**Understanding Ourselves Rightly:** Romans 6:1-4

### Litany of Confession

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Ephesians 1:7

### Song of Renewal

"Jesus at the Center". . . . . Houghton/Ranney/Massey

-----God's Grace-----

**Scripture Reading:** John 15:1-3

### Prayer

### The Sermon

"The Pruning"

### Song of Communion

"Show Us Christ". . . . . Plank/Kauflin

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

### Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

### Parting Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

### Benediction

The object of this pruning is never condemnatory. God does not purge his children to penalize us for our sin; he chastises, but he cannot punish those for whom Jesus Christ has been already punished.

## Conclusion

Our prayer should be, "Lord, let thy word cut deep into me.

"In me, in me, in me."

Faithful are the wounds of such a friend as Jesus. If he has wounded any of you, it is not to drive you from him, but to make you cling the closer to him. —C.H. Spurgeon

## Notes

"God is everywhere in creation; but if you want a special display of Him, if you would know what is the secret place of the tabernacle of the Most High, the inner chamber of divinity, you must go where you find the church of true believers, for it is here He makes His continual residence known—in the hearts of the humble and contrite, who tremble at His word." —Charles Spurgeon

**Matthew 7:16–20 (ESV)**

*You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

**6. We have no right to judge the motives and thoughts of others, except so far as they may be clearly discoverable by their actions and words.**

**7. “By their fruits ye shall know them,” is our Lord’s own canon of sacred criticism.**

**Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

**8. The absence of positive fruit was that which condemned the lost.**

**9. The weighty business of self-examination**

**There are many ways in which the Lord takes away barren branches.**

**10. The fruit-bearing branches are not perfect.**

If they were perfect, they would not need pruning; but the fact is there is much of original inbred sin remaining in the best of God’s people, so that whenever the sap within them is strong for the production of fruit, there is a tendency for that strength to turn into evil, and instead of good fruit evil is produced. It is the strength of the tree, and the richness of the sap which makes the branch produce too much wood, so that it needs pruning. The gardener desires to see that strength in clusters, but alas! instead it runs into wood.

—C.H. Spurgeon

The pruning is the lot of all the fruitful saints.

## Upcoming Events

**TONIGHT, October 16 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**  
Worship at 1300 High St. Pottstown

**Saturday, November 5 6:00 PM Prayer Dinner**  
At the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

**Saturday, November 12 11:00 AM-3:00 PM Ladies Luncheon**  
Verna Bowman will be speaking on Overcoming the Storms of Life  
Held at Mt. Carmel UMC 2203 Harmonyville Rd. Elverson, Pa 190520  
See Koreen for a brochure and to make your reservation.

**Sunday, November 13 12:15-1:00 P.M. Sunday School Reorganization**  
Meeting in the Conference Room upstairs for current staff and anyone interested in being involved in our Sunday School as a teacher, assistant, care-giver, or prayer partner.

**DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden**

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving soon.



**CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl**

- Pray for their Blended Family ministry where leaders are trained to minister to the unique needs of blended families.

**Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson**  
**INDIA**

Pray for the foreign staff to faithfully serve God with integrity. Pray for Lubhaya in North India as he oversees 12 classes, including his own. Please pray for the ministry in Pakistan to be stable under Ejaz’s leadership. Also, pray for the Bengali staff to be diligent in hardship and for salvation for others.

### Pro-Life Prayer

#### COUNTRIES FIGHTING AGAINST ABORTION

Many countries around the world are considering laws to either legalize or criminalize abortion. While Argentina and Northern Ireland, among others, have legalized abortion in the past few years, legislators in countries like Poland and Slovakia are working to reverse the laws that currently protect abortion. Pray for eyes around the world to be opened to the horrors of abortion and the value of every human life. Ask God to strengthen those who are fighting to protect preborn children. Pray for a favorable response in governing and legislating bodies around the world.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . October 16, 2022

- Pray for the wife of Brian Cummings' coworker, Cory. She had complications during a c-section and is now at CHOP.
- Pray for Dionne and Jordan Mace and Sam Mace, as they care for Sam. Sam is at Children's Hospital for in-patient care. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the doctors associated with Sam's care. Pray for God's strength for their family.
- Pray for Fred and Lisa, friends of Donna Jenkins. Pray they have successful surgeries, and they would be able to have help caring for Ashley. Pray for God's healing strength for their family.
- Praise that Lorraine Blanski's nephew, Jason, is home in Reading. Jason is hydrocephalic currently, has blurry vision, and some pressure behind his eyes. Jason still has short-term memory loss. Pray for continued healing.
- Praise that Daisy Roth had a successful surgery and needs no further treatment.
- Pray for Tim Li from Taiwan as he attends Conestoga Christian School.
- Pray for Ashley Adams and her friend, Hannah, who have the opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip to the Texas/Mexican border from November 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Pray for God's strength for Ashley and Hannah as they build relationships, pray, and evangelize to these women and children.
- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are all settled in their apartment and working in California. Pray for their safety and that Cassie can find a church.
- Pray for Terri Yerk, friend of Donna Jenkins, who was admitted to Park House with a stroke. Pray for healing for him and God's comfort for his wife.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law. Beth started her radiation treatments, and they are going well. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Austin is doing okay with school. Overall, he is doing well. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for John Kurtyka, cousin of Lorraine Blanski. Pray for God's continued strength, peace, and comfort for John's family and John, who lost both of his children.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

## Message

### The Pruning

*John 15:1-5 (ESV)*

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

1. **Our text mentions two characters who are in some respects exceedingly alike; they are both branches, they are both branches in the vine: "Every branch in me."**
2. **The Work of the Vinedresser**
3. **Once we're converted, God does not say: "I have now put My stamp of approval on you, so 'Let go and let God.' I'll take care of the rest of your life.**
4. **Can a man who yields no fruit of righteousness can be really a Christian?**

**A person can have a relationship with Christ that is merely external.**

5. **There is a distinction between the branches—the great and serious difference. The first branch brought forth no fruit; the second branch bore some fruit.**