

# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

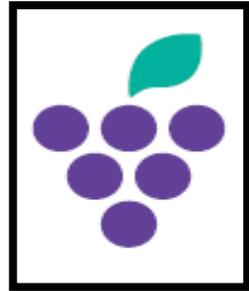
## #14 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

*Church in your pyjamas!*

Sat 04 July 2020



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



ANCHOR SERIES #5

heart   
to heart

**REMINDER:**

**HOLY COMMUNION: 05JULY**

## **FURTHER REFLECTION**

### **Hebrews 6:19-20 (New Revised Standard Version)**

<sup>19</sup>“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Hebrews 6:19-20 (The Message)**

<sup>19</sup>“We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual life line, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up his permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Looking at different translations can open up a different way of seeing the same thing. In the NRSV the focus is on HOPE is described as

**“a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...”**

While in The Message, HOPE is reframed in a way that we are to **“grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual life line...”**

- Q. By comparing these same readings, using different translations, do you notice a different emphasis emerge?
- Q. Which metaphor do you connect with more?
- Q. Does seeing HOPE as an **“unbreakable spiritual life line”** add something different to how you see Hope?
- Q. Anything else catch your attention?

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<sup>1</sup> Melchizedek is a Priest King who appears with Abraham in Genesis chapter 14.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Today I am focussing on the Unbreakable Cable that links the Anchor of God's love and Hope to our Boat (our lives). The Heart to Heart image comes from the hymn from last week,

*"It is safely moored twill the storm withstand,  
For tis well secured by the Saviours hand;  
**And the cable, passed from His heart to mine,**  
Can defy that blast, through strength divine*

Preparing for Holy Communion reminded me of another way of talking about our relationship with God, this time the image came from Robin Mann's song "The candles are lit and the table is laid."

## **CHORUS**

*Here we meet you once again,  
God of mercy, God of grace;  
Taste your love in bread and wine,  
**We meet you face to face.***

## **FOR REFLECTION**

Q. Do you often have Heart to Hearts or Face to Face with God?  
New perspective on Face time. Ha.

Q. What sort of image or metaphor would you use to describe how you connect with God?  
Walking, sitting, sleeping (ha)?

We want to grow stronger in our faith, as individuals and The Vines church, so keep exploring.

Because without awareness we cannot change!

## **EMAIL REFLECTIONS:**

Hi David,

Thank you for your messages which challenge us to think about our faith.

When you commenced the Anchor series the old hymn "Will Your Anchor Hold" (quoted in The Grape) came to mind so after the Service I had to play it on UTube and Barbara Johnson (who watches the Service with me) and I sang it together. I have played it numerous times since and after each Service the words particularly the chorus come to mind. I can relate these words to my faith because after each Faith Slap my faith has grown stronger.

As mentioned Barbara Johnson comes to my home to watch the Sunday services on tv - no not in our pyjamas!! in our Sunday best, makeup, the lot. We have kept to the routine of meeting each Sunday at 9.30 am until recently when we made it 10.00am. We have morning tea together after the Service. Margaret Lomman joins us occasionally when we have a wonderful time of fellowship together.

I have got used to this new "normal" and will have to "step out of the boat" into the new "normal".

Margaret Dowdell, Lamentations 3:22-23

### **Join us for online tea and coffee after church again this Sunday**

At 10.30 am tomorrow, **Sunday, 31st May**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church.

Visitors welcome!

**Please refer to this week's Grapevine for more information.**

### **Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

**“Phone a Friend and Choose life”**

‘Cos you can’t catch the virus over the phone...

**But you can pass on God’s love!**

