

THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

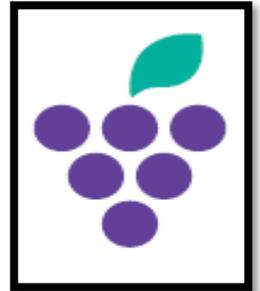
21 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

Church in your pyjamas!

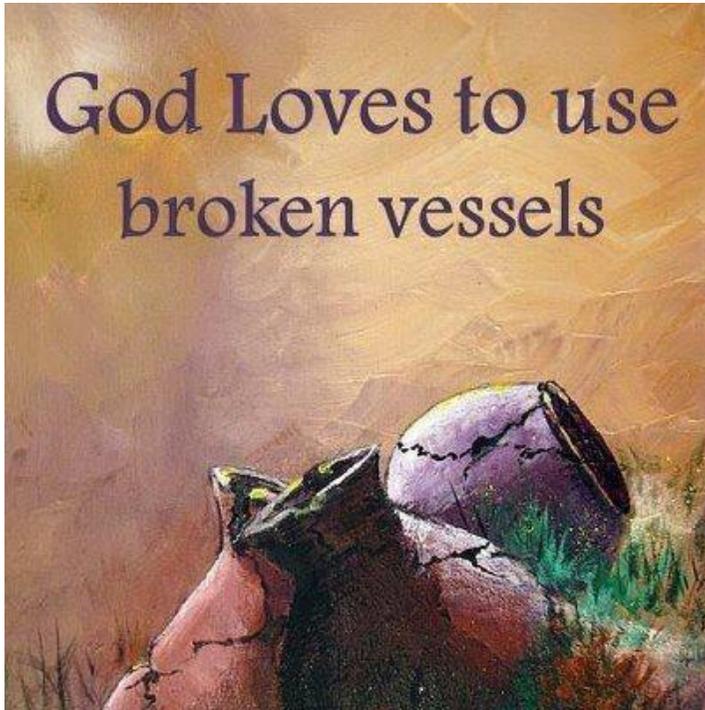
Sat 22 Aug 2020



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 #12 – Rom 5:5



“HOPE – THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Have you ever considered the immensity of the words from Romans 5:5? No seriously. Paul is saying that the God of the universes has put the essence of the divine within us... LOVE put into our lives... earthen vessels, vulnerable, frail and broken. But there is a problem...

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” Hebrews 2:1 King James Version



In the margin of the KJV, the phrase “let them slip” has an alternate translation -

“run out as leaking vessels.”

As earthen vessels that contain God’s power, presence, love, we need to be conscious that we should not let this truth “slip, go adrift or

“run out as leaking vessels.”

Being described as a broken or leaking vessel is a great metaphor. Because it reminds us that being filled with the Spirit of God is not a one off experience.

When life seems easy we don’t even notice how much of God’s Spirit we have stored up... However, when things suddenly become a disaster we discover our reserves are low (I am using a metaphor to describe something that is spiritual), so how do you refill?

Q. Are there implications for your faith based on these metaphors?

Q. What part of your Faith do you notice goes the quickest in hardship?

Q. If we are broken vessels leaking the Spirit, how do you refill?

Q. Have you found any spiritual disciplines that help refill your faith?

Q. Is there a part of creation/garden/window that helps you reconnect?

23 AUG 20 INTERIM WORSHIP:

We're back .. wk 3!

Different, but we're thankful for the chance to reconnect:

TIME: 09.30am Service Sunday morning (45 mins ish)
Max attendance 51 people (includes Worship team)
Instrumental music only to meet Gov. / UC Synod policy.
(No singing from Band or congregation to mitigate droplets.)

Service - Recorded and LIVE STREAMED onto Vines Web page.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church



CHAIRS: are set to the correct GOV approved spacing.

PEWS: can be used by couples who choose to sit together, unless chairs are preferred.

TABLES: for families with children, so they can do activities under parental supervision.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS:

Tickets for the upcoming service can be booked through **Humanitix** from 3pm on Sunday, until 11 am on Friday.

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-vines-uniting-church-sunday-service-pwita8d9>

There's no need to print out your tickets, just book them and the Church will receive the records ready for Sunday.

If you **NEED HELP** with booking, please contact Colleen or Judy.

Please:

"Do not attend the Sunday Service if you are at all unwell."

Should you need **TO CANCEL** your tickets, please let Colleen or Judy know by **4 pm on Thurs 27th August**, (unless there are unexpected circumstances), to enable them to rebook the tickets.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. Why no singing?

The WHY of our getting back together was to focus on “Connection” getting as many people in the building as possible. Based on distancing if people were to start singing there would be a requirement to increase spacing between chairs, meaning less people could attend.

Q. Will this change?

Our services are Interim services, meaning that we are constantly reviewing and exploring what works the best.

In September we will review singing, having considered the latest COVID 19 information, our congregation and with best practice.

Please send in some more questions and we can answer them.

Rev DJPrior.

MINISTER’S LEAVE

Reverend David Prior will be on leave from Monday 24th August to Wednesday 2nd September. Should there be any pastoral needs during this time, please contact your small group leaders, or Judy or Colleen.

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

At **11.00 am** tomorrow, **Sunday, 23rd August**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church. Visitors welcome!

ZOOM Children’s Sunday Morning Chat **10.45 am** with Rev David and co.

Please refer to this week’s Grapevine for more information

CHECK <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>

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!’

