**Central Oregon’s United Church of Christ**

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**Order of Worship May 3, 2015**Meeting this day in the
Juniper Room, St. Charles Hospital,
Redmond, Oregon

Welcome and Announcements

Candle lighting

Mission Statement

**With God’s guidance and love for one another,
We strive to be an inclusive, nurturing, and challenging
community of progressive, Christian seekers
in a manner that is relevant for our lives today.**

Call to Worship:

One: As the weak realize their strength; as the poor eat and are satisfied,

**All: God’s love abides in us.**
One: As the stranger finds a friend; as the family offers forgiveness,

**All: God’s love abides in us.**
One: As the ends of the earth know of Christ’s grace,

**All: God’s love abides in us.**

**Hymn #35 “No Matter”** (*Sing! Prayer and Praise*)

Unison Opening Prayer:

**God of love,
plant us in the soil of your grace.
Nurture us with the strength of Christ,
the vine of everlasting life.
Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,
which flows through us today and all days.
Abide in us,
that we may abide in you
and live in your love.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen**

Text: John 15:1-8

Message: Truth

**Hymn #163 “Many are the Lightbeams”** (*NCH*)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Responsive Prayer

One: We thank you, God, for Jesus the Christ the true vine. We rejoice that by your grace we are branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we confess that all is not always well with the way we live.

**All: Please forgive us for the occasions when
 we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine,
 preferring its contamination to the vigour of health.**

One: Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life,
 for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework you provide,
 for being content, and sometimes even proud of a few sparse or undersized fruits,
 for the apathy which lets us go through some seasons without bearing any fruit.

**All: Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches and cut away our diseased ones. May we remain in Christ and he in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. And hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.**

 The Lord’s Prayer: **Our Father ….**

Service of Communion:

Powerful and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth we recognize the fullness of your grace and the breadth and depth of your love. We acknowledge the truth that Jesus is the vine of your vineyard and we are the branches of that vine.

We remember now how, on the night of his betrayal, the eve of his death, when he ate with his disciples, with those he called his friends, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them saying: “Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.”

 And we remember too, that Jesus took the cup, the cup of blessing, and after giving thanks, he passed it to his friends saying:“Take and drink, this is my life, lived out for you, a new covenant for the pattern of our lives. Whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me.”

 **Communion** **Song #153 “Eat This Bread” (*Sing! Prayer and Praise*)**

**Sharing of the elements**

**All: “Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and the cup, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may bear fruit through serving as Christ served, and loving as Christ loved. This we pray in Christ’s name. Amen**

**Hymn #388 “Help Us Accept Each Other”** (*NCH*)

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| Blessing: One: He said, “I am the Vine and you are the branches pruned and prepared.”**All: We go forth with love for all to bear the fruit of heaven because we know it is possible when we live in Christ.** |  |