

† Please stand as you are able. The congregation may join in by reciting **the words in bold.**

If you have a prayer request, you may write it on one of the prayer cards in your pew, and during Prayers of the People, Pastor Adam will ask for them.

*Prelude*

Desiree Davis-Omburo

*Welcome and Announcements*

Rev. Adam Benson

*Chiming the Trinity*

*Call to Worship—Psalm 91*

<sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

<sup>2</sup> **will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;

<sup>4</sup> **he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.**

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day

<sup>6</sup> **or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup> **You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,

<sup>10</sup> **no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.**

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> **On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup> **Those who love me, I will deliver;**

**I will protect those who know my name.**

<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble;

I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> **With long life I will satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.**

† *Opening Hymn*

“Gather Us In”

TFWS 2236

† *Hymn*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH 384

*Prayer for Illumination*

**Lord of love, You are the vine and we are the branches. We depend on You to  
for what we need, and in You we find life. May your words abide in us. Lead  
us to abundant life in You. Amen.**

*New Testament Reading*

1 John 4:7-21

Herb Schwarze

*Gospel Reading*

John 15:1-8

Leader: this is the word of God for us the people of God, **thanks be to God!**

*Prayer of Confession—by Thom Shuman*

**Mother of Compassion, though You call us to be one body, we fragment  
ourselves into a million selfish pieces; Your children of love, we insist on the  
right to despise our sisters and brothers; though Your Perfect Love was broken  
for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world. Abide in us, Vine  
Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and  
proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

*Words of Forgiveness—Thom Shuman*

Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God’s love is alive, beating,  
breathing – in you!

**Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God’s love to bear  
fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

† *Peace of Christ*

*At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace.*

*Sermon*

“Abide and Grow”

Rev. Adam Benson

*Moment of Silence*

†**Song of Response** “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” **TFWS 2223**

***Prayers of the People***

*During this time, if you have a prayer request, you may come forward to take a candle, light it using another lit candle, and place it in the sand as sign of your prayer for this person, place, or community.*

***Invitation to the Offering***

***The Doxology (UMH 94)***

***Dedicating our gifts to God***

†**Closing Hymn** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” **TFWS 2153**

†**Benediction**

†**Chiming the Trinity**

†**Postlude**

**Announcements:**

**Movie, Pizza, and Potluck TONIGHT @ 5-7 PM:** We’ll be watching the environmental documentary, “Common Ground,” in the fellowship hall. There will be pizza, and folks are also invited to bring a side.

**Sign up for Dinner Groups or Prayer Walkers:** We’re still taking sign-ups for dinner groups and prayer walkers, and the sign-up sheets are located in the main hallway on the white table.

**Study on Philippians, “Chasing Happy,” on Thursdays @ noon.**

A new **Sunday School class** with Herb Schwarze and Marie Porter on “**Moses**” by Adam Hamilton is being offered at **9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 1.**

**Mission Announcement: Parkwood UMC is now in charge of stocking the green bean shelf in the Parktown Food Hub every month!** We encourage you all to bring your cans of green beans each month. Thanks so much to all of you who brought your cans during April!

**“Coffee with the Pastor”** resumes this Wednesday at Starbucks @ 9:30 AM-12

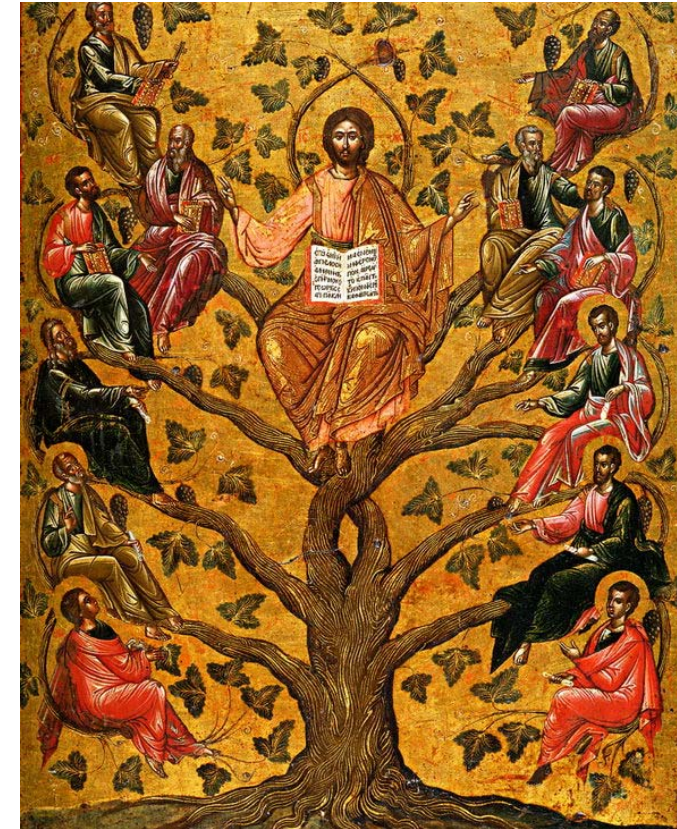
**Quarterly Statements** are available in envelopes on the white table as you leave.

Total Offering or Gifts given Jan-Mar, 2024: \$33,564.65

Total budgeted for Jan-Mar: \$39,834

Difference between collected offerings and what we spent for Jan-Mar is **-\$6,223.00**

# Parkwood United Methodist Church April 28, 2024



Eastern Orthodox Icon of Jesus as the True Vine

## “I am the Vine”

Sunday, April 28, 2024 • Fourth Sunday of Easter