

MINISTER'S Message

May 7, 2018

We are the branches ...

We are finally seeing signs of spring. People are out in their yards, surveying their trees and bushes, asking themselves what needs to be trimmed or pruned to promote healthy growth?

In John's gospel, we find the image of Christ as vine, and humankind as the branches that emerge from the vine. The vine represents the source of love, strength and hope.

We, the branches - reach out from the vine to give shape and space for the fruit of the vine. Without the branches that bear fruit, the vine does not produce. It needs the branches to reach out, to be active in sharing love. And when branches don't bear fruit, there is time for gentle pruning, tending carefully to bring about new growth.

This passage reminds us that we are called to be fruit-bearing branches, and we do that when we abide in God, as active participants in sharing the love of Christ with the world - and especially - as Jesus did, in places where there is injustice, where there is marginalization, where there pain or sorrow. We are reminded that when we follow that path of love, without judgement or prejudice, God is surely with us, abiding with us, as we abide with God. For as 1st John says: We love, because God first loved us.



Each time we give of ourselves to reach out to another, we are abiding in God's love, and in turn, we become bearers of the fruit of justice, peace and love.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Tammy Allan

Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church