



**Emmanuel Newsletter
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 2, 2021**

Dear Friends,

In our gospel this week Jesus tells the parable of the vine and branches. God is the vine grower and Jesus is the vine. The vine grower must cut away the branches that do not give fruit. We have heard this story many times and although the analogy is not difficult to grasp; its truth is more challenging to understand.

A few years ago, we lived in a more rural part of Massachusetts and owned a house that had a grape arbor on the property. I was thrilled and wanted very much to nurture arbor to harvest grapes from it in the style of so many Italian Americans. However, when spring came the vine appeared to be completely dead. My husband had trimmed it in the fall, and I thought he had killed it. He kept insisting that the vine would grow as soon as the weather warmed. I didn't believe him. I silently cursed him and held my grief inside.

I was wrong. The vine achieved great health and grew much greater than before and carried with it an abundance of fruit. When I remember that time and once again hear this gospel, I am reminded that there are many times when we experience the pain of life (the trimming) and struggle to accept the negative that is so necessary to new life.

Sometimes even with the gospel message being so common and so clear, we cannot believe that our efforts to nurture one another bears fruit. Think of a time when someone helped get you through a difficulty? I am reminded of one my favorite folk songs by Suzanne Collins, "*The only way out [of the fire] is through.*" The dust of our pain is fertilizer for our joy.

May you live in the knowledge of that joy!

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano,

Priest-in-Residence
Emmanuel, West Roxbury



PRAYER LIST

We ask that you keep in your prayers the following persons: Paul; Mary; Beth; Jenny; Dianna; Joseph; Catherine and Brant; Carla; Michael; Louise; Parker, Sergio, and Arthur.

(Please email us the names of those who need special prayers---info@emmanuelwr.org. Only first names will be used.)



NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Join the Zoom Service:

<https://zoom.us/j/99371276575?pwd=MDF1bm5pU0VCRDZ3dm1WZGJVMStKUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 7127 6575

Passcode: 089094

After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our website or YouTube site:

www.emmanuelwr.org

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Email us at: info@emmanuelwr.org



More spring glory, April 26, 2021. Photo by John Gooley.