** Café VEF Worship Service**

**(May 2nd, 2021)**

***\*Address: #2 Jiangong 1st Road, Hsinchu.***

***\*Website: www.vefellowship.com***

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| **Opening Prayer** | **Pastor Tom** |
| **Call to Worship** | **Psalms 150:1-2, 6** |
| **Worship in Song** | **Goodness of God**  **May your presence go with us**  **You are my all in all**  **Shout to the lord** |
| **Pastoral Prayer** | **Pastor Tom** |
| **Announcements** | **Pastor Tom** |
| **Scripture Reading** | **Daniel 3:8-28**  **1 John 4:12-21** |
| **Message** | **Pastor Tom**  ***John 15:1-8*** |
| **Response Song** |  |
| **Benediction** |  |

**ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?**

During our time of fellowship after every service is also a good time for special prayer, whether it be a health crisis, career decision, family situation, or prayer to place your faith in Christ as Lord and Savior of your life. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of our staff to pray with you.  Every Wednesday, our staff shares in a special time of prayer for VEF needs. If you would like prayer or would like the staff to pray for a friend or relative, your request can be registered at **prayer.vefellowship.com**.

**VEF PASTORS** seek to be available for spiritual direction or to discuss life issues. Most days, they are at the church during the mornings from 8:30 to 12 and then in the afternoons and evenings are working from their home offices or are available to visit cell group meetings, in homes, or meet for tea/coffee at a restaurant.

**VEF Contact Information**

Pastor Tom Curry – 0974-163-951 / 03-571-6803 x2224 / tcurry777@gmail.com

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Peter Park – [koo26@naver.com](mailto:koo26@naver.com)

**How to pay tithes by Wire Transfer**

You can transfer your offerings to Victory's Postal account, the bank code is 700, follow by the account number - 0061021 0478485. Contact Jims at [jims.vef@gmail.com](mailto:jims.vef@gmail.com) or Yu-Hwa at yhwang217@yahoo.com.tw. Please make sure to contact one of them the first time to make sure the money goes into the VEF account and transfer was properly made.

Join us on LINE or FB to get regular updates regarding VEF.

**Announcements**

Today @10:45-12:00 – Bible Study on 1 Peter @B104

**May 22nd – Transitions Seminar.** Life is full of transitions and changes. You might be graduating soon, getting married, starting a new job, changing jobs, moving to a new country, etc. How can we thrive in the midst of change? For more information or to register for the workshop please contact Esta Gracias, Intercultural Relationship & Parenting Counselor for more information - [estagracias92@gmail.com](mailto:estagracias92@gmail.com) for registration – <https://bit.ly/MMTZGLifeTransition>

**Last Sunday’s (4/25)**

* Morning worship attendance – 119
* Afternoon worship attendance – 41
* Children’s Sunday school attendance – 48

**Question: "What did Jesus mean when He said 'I am the True Vine' (John 15:1)?"**

***https://www.gotquestions.org/true-vine.html*  
  
Answer:**“I am the True Vine” ([John 15:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2015.1)) is the last of seven [“I am”](https://www.gotquestions.org/I-AM.html) declarations of Jesus recorded only in John’s Gospel. These “I am” proclamations point to His unique divine identity and purpose. Jesus said, “I am the True Vine” to closest friends gathered around Him. It was only a short time before Judas would betray Him; in fact, Judas had already left to do his infamous deed ([John 13:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2013.30)). Jesus was preparing the eleven men left for His pending crucifixion, His resurrection, and His subsequent departure for heaven. He had just told them that He would be leaving them ([John 14:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2014.2)). Knowing how disturbed they would feel, He gave them this lovely metaphor of the True Vine as one of His encouragements.  
Jesus wanted His friends, not only those eleven, but those of all time, to know that He was not going to desert them, even though they would no longer enjoy His physical presence. His living energy—His spiritual reality—would continue to nourish and sustain them just as the roots and trunk of a grape vine produce the energy that nourishes and sustains its [branches](https://www.gotquestions.org/vine-and-branches.html) while they develop their fruit. Jesus wanted us to know that, even though we cannot see Him, we are as closely connected to Him as the branches of a vine are connected to its stem. Our desire to know and love Him and the energy to serve Him will keep flowing into and through us as long as we “abide” in Him.  
Jesus went on to remove any misunderstanding about what He meant ([John 15:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2015.4)). He said that no branch can even live, let alone produce leaves and fruit, by itself. Cut off from the trunk, a branch is dead. Just as a vine’s branches rely on being connected to the trunk from which they receive their energy to bear fruit, Jesus’ disciples depend on being connected to Him for their spiritual life and the ability to serve Him effectively. The fruit we produce is that of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control ([Galatians 5:22–23](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%205.22%E2%80%9323)). Our source of life and spiritual fruit is not in ourselves; it is outside us, in Christ Jesus. We can live, live rightly, and serve Him effectively only if we are rightly connected to Him in a faith/love relationship.  
Then Jesus underscored His point even more strongly by saying, “Apart from me you can do nothing” ([John 15:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2015.5)). This illustration of the vine and branches is no thoughtless generality or careless simile. It is absolute, stark reality. No believer can achieve anything of spiritual value independently of Christ Jesus. He also reminds us that there are some who are “in” Him who bear no fruit. But these are not, as some would suppose, true branches that just happen to be fruitless. All true branches bear fruit. Just as we know a healthy, living tree by the good fruit it produces, so do we recognize fruitless branches as having no connection to the True Vine. This is why Jesus tells us, “By their fruit you will know them” ([Matthew 7:16–20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%207.16%E2%80%9320)). Those who do not produce good fruit are cut away and burned. The reference here is to apostates, those who profess to know Christ but whose relationship to Him is insincere. He neither called them nor elected them nor saved them nor sustains them. Eventually, the fruitless branches are identified as not belonging to the Vine and are removed for the sake of truth and the benefit of the other branches.  
So, we depend on Jesus for everything, starting with our very life—“For in Him we live and move and have our being” ([Acts 17:28](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%2017.28))—and including our reconciliation with God through Him ([Romans 5:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%205.10)). No one can serve God effectively until he is connected with Jesus Christ by faith. Jesus is our only connection with the God who gave life and who produces in us a fruitful life of righteousness and service.