

truth that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Ask that the Lord would give us spiritual wisdom, discerning eyes eager to see the truth, and spirits ready and willing to understand the purposes he has for us.

### **“I Am the True Vine” (John 15:1)**

*Jesus is the True Vine (John 15:1-17).* He reminded his disciples of this on the night of his betrayal, that they must remain in him, for apart from him they could do nothing. The same is true for us. We can only bear fruit if we abide in him. Take a few minutes to read this passage and to meditate on Jesus’ words. Spend a few moments in prayer, with your palms facing upward as a sign of your submission to God. Confess the recent moments in your life when you have sinned and have failed to abide in him. Give thanks that he is a God who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Rejoice in the hope that we have in Jesus, whose blood was shed for us, that we might have life in his name.

*At the conclusion of your time in prayer, we invite you to come up to the front of the Sanctuary to the Communion Table.* Bread and juice will be displayed at the center of the table. We invite you to take one of the communion cups on the side of the table and to observe the Lord’s Supper. Give thanks that his body was broken for you, and that his blood was shed for you.

**After you finish, we invite you to join us for fellowship outside the Sanctuary under the porte cochere.**

PRESENTS

# Come to the Table

A PRAYER EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

## **“I Am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35)**

*Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:25-40).* Take a few minutes to read this passage and to meditate on Jesus’ words. Give thanks to God for the ways his word has sustained you and given you life. Pray that we would hunger and thirst for him. When you leave, grab a loaf of bread from the fellowship table under the porte cochere to take home with you as a reminder that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

## **“I Am the Light of the World” (John 8:12)**

*Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12-30).* Close your eyes. As darkness is before you, think about your life before you knew Christ. Now, open your eyes. As you are greeted by the light of the Sanctuary around you, let that be a picture of the ways that Christ brings the light of his life to the dark places - even the dark places of our hearts. As we walk in the light, our prayer is that others who are walking in darkness would know this same light. We invite you to come up to one of the tables at the front of the Sanctuary lined with candles. Light a candle and say a prayer for someone in your life who does not know the Lord. Pray that this person would come to know that Christ is the true Light of the World.

## **“I Am the Gate” (John 10:7)**

*Jesus is the Gate (John 10:1-10).* He is the gate by which we enter into God’s family and become a part of the household of faith. Spend some time reflecting on your own faith story, of how God called you to himself. When did you come to faith? Were there specific people God used as a part of your salvation story? Give thanks to God for how he uses people to point us to himself! As you think back on your journey of faith, in what ways have you seen the Lord lead you “to pasture” - to provide abundantly for you? Give thanks for his provision and for the ways you have seen him at work in your life.

## **“I Am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11)**

*Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-21).* Jesus tenderly leads and guides us, and he is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us, his sheep. He came so that we might have abundant life in his name.

Turn to Psalm 23 and pray this beloved psalm over your loved ones. Ask that your loved ones would know that the Lord is their shepherd, and because of that truth, that they would not want. Pray that the Lord would lead them in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Ask that they would know the Lord’s comforting presence as their Good Shepherd along their journey of life, in times of sorrow and in times of joy.

*Note: One of our Sanctuary windows depicts the imagery of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Feel free to move to the Discipleship Window (on the right side of the Sanctuary closer to the front) for your time of reflection.*

## **“I Am the Resurrection & the Life” (John 11:25)**

*Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:1-44).* In this beautiful recounting of the death and raising of Lazarus, we are reminded that the Lord is near to those who grieve, and that Jesus himself wept over his friend’s death. Spend a few moments in prayer, focusing on the truth that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. As you pray, pray for medical professionals, for those who are hurting, for the sick in our church and community, and for those who are walking through a period of grief. Pray that they might know the hope of Jesus even in the midst of sorrow, that he indeed is the Resurrection and the Life, and pray that this truth would be a balm to their souls in this season.

## **“I Am the Way, the Truth, & the Life” (John 14:6)**

*Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:1-14).* In the Upper Room, prior to his betrayal, Jesus communicated several significant truths to his disciples. He explained to them that he would be going away for a period, but that he would return - yet the disciples did not understand where he was going, or how they would know the way. Jesus declared to them, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). Jesus is the only Way to God. Jesus is the Truth, fulfilling all of the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament foreshadowing a Messiah to come. Jesus is the Life - it is only in him that we can have abundant life. Spend a few moments praying for our church. Give thanks to God for the body of believers known as Mountain Brook Baptist Church, and pray that we would live into the