

HOLD ON

BY COLIN MILLER



Christ says "I am the Vine, you are the branches."

Every time we come in through these doors we see this icon of the Vine.
Every time we go out through those doors we see a world that seems
to be pulled apart, cut off, the good things withering.

Even if you don't watch the news,
you probably watch people who watch the news
and see what it does to them.

Every time we come through these doors we see this icon of the Vine.
They've been told that the center cannot hold.
They say all is cut loose and blown by the winds.
We say the center is immovable and eternal.

Look deeper at what is right in front of you when you come in here.

We have Someone to hold on to, something to attach
ourselves to.

Christ is the Vine, we are joined to Him and have
become His branches.

The root of this Vine extends to the center,
the foundation of the universe.

Know that this Vine is the source of your strength and
our life.
Hold on.

Hold on to those whose strength is failing.
Help those whose grip is slipping.

A broken branch is something that should be felt by all.
Help them to hold on.

Right here we should be very thankful for the newest green leaves we see,
watered in baptism, where vitality shines through.

We should be thankful when we remember those who have become more
like the wood that has given shape and strength to this vineyard,
those who have given the very wood in these walls
in a way that is not only metaphorical.

In this coming year we are prepared to pay off the mortgage
by the charity and sacrifices made by all of you.

God's grace in every little thing that you have done in the past
has brought us to where we are now.

All these things that have been accomplished here are also the things that are
our preparation for the future.

As we move into this next year let us hold on to Christ and each other.
Let us keep this vineyard a place where all may find their lives.

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