

Coffee hour at 11am after service via Zoom
Code: 229508663
PW: 056996

*"The Heart of the Matter" with guest Dee Sweet
February 14, 2021*

Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning "the people") People, and we honor their elders both past and present.

Prelude/Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

We are called to love the Lord our God

We are called to love with all our heart and soul

We are called to love the Lord our God

We are called to love with all our mind and strength

We are called to love the Lord our God

And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Come, let us love our God and share God's love in this time of worship!

Love Is...

Love is... hugs

Love is... a pick me up

Love is... when two become one

Love is... friendship

Love is... sharing the last piece of pizza

Love is... hard to explain

Love is... unbelievable

Love is... unpredictable

Love is... giving away your last role

Love is... endless

Love is... protection

Love is... a rollercoasterhttps

Love is... a smile

Love is... a heartbeat

Love is... patient

Love is... kind

Love is... a never ending story

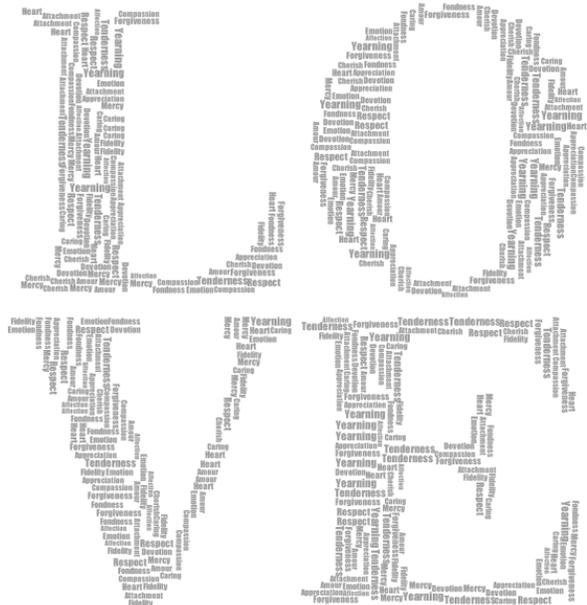
Love is... eternal

Love is... a circle of friends

Love is... a circle of eternity

Love is... a circle called God

Love is... all we need



~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Listening to the Stones.**

Gathering Song #708 vs 1-4 ELW “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them. *(Refrain)*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are nearby and far away. *(Refrain)*

These are the ones we serve, these are the ones we will love; all these are neighbors to us and you. *(Refrain)*

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet; this is the way we will live with you. *(Refrain)*

Greeting

The Love of Christ Jesus is with you always. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise #292 vs. 1-3 ELW “Love is Come”

Love has come—a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers,

Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the dazzling light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image of love and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

1st Reading Colossians 3:12-14 The Message

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.



2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The Message The Way of Love

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Words of Reflection: "The Heart of the Matter" with guest Dee Sweet

Hymn of the Day# 716 vs 1, 2 & 4 ELW *"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"*

Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev'ry race;
and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue: Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, remembering thee.



Creed Statement

We believe in Creator, **Father-Mother Spirit, who called the world and all that is in it, into being, who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in obedience to the will of supreme love and in community with all.**

We believe in Creator, Son and Brother, who, because of love beyond our understanding, love for creation, entered the world to share our humanity, to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.

We believe in Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, that we may through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may be; that we may rejoice in the constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together, that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge.

We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. AMEN

Prayers of Intercession

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God.

For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.

That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harms way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or disease—of mind, body, or spirit...especially Wally and Colleen, Paula, Bill, Ruthann, Beverly, Chuck, Wilma, Barb, Gene, Pavel, Alla, Oliver and Victoria, Kris, Lana, Leanne, Sheryl, friends and family of Brad, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health— health as only you, O God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen

The Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of being reconciled.

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love, forgiveness and grace.



Offering Prayer

Lord of our life and of our love, the path to you is straight, may we proclaim a message that is exemplified by our generosity, our kindness, and our love. In Jesus way we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now we say the Nez Perce version of the Lord's Prayer:

Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief, In the most high place whose home is everywhere, Even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever You want done let it be done everywhere. Give us Your gift of bread day by day. Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil, For everything belongs to You. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen

(Written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)

Announcements

Blessing

Great Spirit, our Creator God, look upon these faces gathered in holy community together and send them anywhere you would have them go, so that they may embody the word of reconciliation through their actions. Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road. Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always. **AMEN**

(Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Oglala Sioux)

Sending Song #720 ELW vs 1-3 ELW "We Are Called"

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God. *(refrain)*

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *(refrain)*

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *(refrain)*

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

DISMISSAL

We have honored Christ our brother and chief. Sisters and Brothers, go in peace and love. **Thanks be to God.**

