

UMCA LENT WORSHIP
Love Is the Way
Week 1: What is Love?
Sunday, February 21, 2021

COUNTDOWN

OPENING SEQUENCE

OPENING VERSE - Colossians 3:12-14 (Laura)

Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

OPENING PRAYER W/ CANDLES (Rachael/Harris)

INTRO: Rachael will record this part.

Welcome to worship with the United Methodist Church of Anoka. My name is Pastor Rachael, and I am so grateful to share this time of worship together with all of you. Each day during Lent, we are invited to pray for one another and hold one another in loving community, even as we remain distant. On Sundays, we will light candles and share these prayers together. Use whatever candles you have available to you. I invite you to pause and light your candles now, to pray together and then continue your silent prayer during the prelude music. At the end of the prelude, you may choose to extinguish your candles or leave them burning. Let us pray.

Holy God, as we pray for others, help us to love them more. Help us to see ourselves and one another through the lens of your great love. Place within us an overwhelming desire to live in ways that bring our world closer to becoming your beloved community.

This week, we pray especially for:

- People with whom we share our prayers
- People who are lonely or afraid
- People who take action
- People who are sick
- People who say kind things

We remember these people with love. We remember, God, that your love is for everyone.
Amen.

The

PRELUDE (with offering info on the screen)

The Beautiful Treasures of Heaven

arr by Carl Wiltse

Excerpt from LOVE IS THE WAY

Love is a firm commitment to act for the well-being of someone other than yourself. It can be personal or political, individual or communal, intimate or public. Love will not be segregated to the private, personal precincts of life. Love, as I read it in the Bible, is ubiquitous. It affects all aspects of life. (p. 14)

HYMN

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson (1972); TUNE: O WALY WALY

Though I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift of all inspire
And have not love, my words are vain
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain
Though I may give all I possess
And striving so my love profess
But not be given by love within
The profit soon turns strangely thin
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control
Our spirits long to be made whole
Let inward love guide every deed
By this we worship, and are freed

FIRST READING

Psalm 25:1-9

I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you.
Please don't let me be put to shame!
Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!
For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame;
instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth - teach it to me - because you are the God who saves me.
I put my hope in you all day long.
Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love - they are forever!
But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.
Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

The Lord is good and does the right thing; who teaches sinners which way they should go.
God guides the weak to justice, teaching them the way.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

ANTHEM

The Rose - Women's Quartet

by Amanda McBroom, arr Philip Lawson, Warner-Tamberlane 1977, arr 2015

Some say love, it is a river
That drowns the tender reed
Some say love, it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed
Some say love, it is a hunger
An endless aching need
I say love, it is a flower
And you its only seed

It's the heart afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking
That never takes the chance
It's the one who won't be taken
Who cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dying
That never learns to live

When the night has been too lonely
And the road has been too long
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the winter snow
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose

SERMON

Rev. Jack Rehnberg

PASTORAL PRAYER - LAURA

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SONG - BRIAN SCHROEDER

Oh Our Lord

Oh our Lord, oh our Lord
How majestic is Your Name in all the earth

We behold the breaking dawn
The light that shines over everyone
We look to You, we long for You, oh Lord

We behold the rising sun
The earth awakes, Your hope has come
We look to You, we long for You oh Lord

We behold the falling rain
Like waters rise, come fill this place
We reach for You, we cling to You oh Lord

Oh Your love is a light in the dark
Oh Your love is the word of truth
Oh Your love, oh Your love

BENEDICTION - RACHAEL

POSTLUDE