

**UMCA LENT WORSHIP**  
**Love Is the Way**  
**Week 5: Agreeing to Love**  
**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

**COUNTDOWN**

**OPENING SEQUENCE**

**OPENING VERSE - Ephesians 4:2-4**

Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope.

**OPENING PRAYER W/ CANDLES**

*INTRO: Rachael will record this part.*

*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, extinguish your candles.*

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 in our neighborhood
- People who show us the consequences of harmful choices
- People who give second chances
- People who make us laugh
- People we have met recently
- People who are sanitation workers
- People who write our favorite books

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

**PRELUDE** (with offering info on the screen)

**Excerpt from LOVE IS THE WAY**

*Love makes it possible to disagree on bedrock convictions and yet stay in relationship. There is a valid concern that doing so forces you to compromise on principles. But sometimes you have to run the risk because of a greater danger: chaos and self destruction. I think we have to run*

*that risk, especially in the church. We have to know that love can survive meaningful disagreements.* (p. 199)

### **FIRST READING (Barb C - done)**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

### **HYMN**

*Jesu, Jesu*

Tom Colvin (1963); Tune: CHEREPONI

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Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you

Neighbors are wealthy and poor  
Varied in color and race  
Neighbors are nearby and far away

These are the ones we should serve  
These are the ones we should love  
All these are neighbors to us and you

### **SECOND READING**

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One[a] to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this

world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

“Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.”

Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

## **ANTHEM**

*If the Savior Stood Beside Me*

## **SERMON**

Rev. Laura Hannah

## **PASTORAL PRAYER - RACHAEL**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## **SONG - BRIAN SCHROEDER**

*Through It All*

Kameron Waters, Chris Franz, and Mariah McManus © 2014

God of the heavens, God of earth  
God of the struggle, you're here with us  
You're here with us  
God of the cities, God of today  
God of forever, bring us together  
And we will sing

All our scars are made beautiful  
Our broken hearts are made whole again  
All we are is found in you

All our scars are made beautiful  
Our broken hearts are made whole again  
Alleluia, your love through it all

God of redemption, God of strength

We've got a freedom, we've got a reason  
To sing

Creation's yearning  
The world is turning around  
The kingdom is coming now  
Even the rocks cry out  
You are worthy  
And with a mighty sound  
Of your people singing loud  
Shout til the walls come down

**BENEDICTION - LAURA**

**POSTLUDE**