



Vestal United Methodist Church

October 25, 2020



Welcome / Prelude Call to Worship

Beach Spring

Leader: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord -

People: There is no other like our God!

Leader: The First and Last – the only One -

People: There is no other like our God!

Leader: Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and King -

People: There is no other like our God!

Leader: The Rock in whom we place our trust -

People: There is no other like our God!

All: We come to lift all that we are – heart, soul, mind and strength – an offering to God, our God, offered in worship and praise!

89 Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Signs of Peace

Gathering Prayer

Silence

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Reading

1 John 3:11, 4:7-12

From *The Message*

Children's Message

408 Hymn

The Gift of Love

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34

From *The Message*

Message

Back to the Basics

Sharon Harris

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Living the Faith

Offering Ourselves to God

402 Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Benediction

2223 FWS Congregational Response *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* vs. 4

Postlude

Gathering Prayer

God, our God – awesome and wonderful – gracious, merciful, faithful – Eternal Love – God, our God, what you ask of us sounds so simple and is so very difficult. Love, you said. Love me, love each other – that’s all, just love. And how we struggle. We get bogged down in our daily routines and all the struggles of life. We lose your voice amid the noise of this world. We forget who we are and who you are and what the church is supposed to be. God, help us. Help us to empty ourselves of everything that is not of you, everything that is not love, and then, God, fill us with yourself – for you are love. Fill us, that we may love as you love - endlessly, unconditionally. God, help us to be the people you want us to be – people of love, who live love in everything we do. Amen.

1 John 3:11, 4:7-12

From *The Message*

For this is the original message we heard: We should love each other. My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God *is* love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

Mark 12:28-34

From *The Message*

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?" Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!" When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."

Opening Hymn 89: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907

MUSIC: Ludwig von Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

Hymn 408: The Gift of Love

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972; MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal Hopson, 1972

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1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Closing Hymn 402: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Spiritual; Music adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Response 2223: They'll Know We Are Christians, vs. 4

WORDS & MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.