



**Order of Worship
January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

I Lay My Sins of Jesus

Broughton

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Susan Whitman

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,

Love is never "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Love always looks for the best,

Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies.

We are waiting to unite fully with the one great love, until then we have faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

We choose God's way of love.

Opening Prayer

Susan Whitman

God of Gods: We come to worship today to hear your good news, to hear of faith, hope and love ringing out from your kingdom. We know that doubt, fear and hatred can shake even the strongest. Shape us into faithful hopeful people, fill us with your love that passes all understanding. We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn (See last page)

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

Children's Message

Quinn Hetherington

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

The 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Ministry of Music

The Way of the Lord

Susan Whitman

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

Susan Whitman

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us for we, your servants, are listening. Amen.

Introduction to Scripture

Susan Whitman

Paul's hymn to love remains one of the great pieces of literature in any language. It has universal application - from marriage and family life to all forms of human relationships. Yet there is a firmness about it that denies all sentimentality. It goes straight to the heart of the problems of human communication and issues that drive us apart.

For those who doubt that this approach to life can be effective, Paul has a special word of counsel. This is how mature people relate to each other. There is no other way to settle

disputes such as those he had encountered among the disciples in Corinth. Why not in Hamilton and the United States and our world too?

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 12:3b1-13

Susan Whitman

Love Is Indispensable

12^{31b} And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Sermon

Pastor Debra

Call to Confession

Pastor Debra

Let us confess our sins to our loving God.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Merciful God, whenever we seek you, love is what we find.

But you do not always find the same when you seek us.

Love is patient, but often we are impatient.

Love is kind, but often we are rude.

Love is not envious, but we often covet.

Love does not insist on its own way, but we often do just that.

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but we often celebrate violence.

Love never ends, and yet we do not always seek your love as our ultimate purpose.

Help us, loving God, to shed our sin and reflect the light of your love.

Guide us that we might have faith in your presence,
that we might hope in your providence,
and, above all, that we might live with your love as our inspiration.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Though our efforts to love are often full of fault, God's steadfast love never fails. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings

Pastor Debra

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Debra

Gracious and loving God, receive our gifts of self and substance. They have belonged to you since our very beginning. We give them freely, joyfully, prayerfully. With them we praise you. With them we celebrate the great power that is love— a love that abides always, a love that radically transforms, a love that makes us whole.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn (See last page)

The Servant Song

FWS 2222

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Go forth, celebrating faith.
Go forth, celebrating hope.
Go forth, celebrating love.
Go forth to be the transformed people
that God calls us to be.
Go forth to transform the world—
in times of prosperity,
but most especially, in times of disbelief,
hostility, fear, and rejection.
Go forth with the knowledge
that you are always surrounded
by the presence of our steadfast, loving God,
our rock and our redeemer.
Go in peace.

Postlude

Venite Adoremus

Nordman

The Gift of Love

*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.*

*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.*

The Servant Song

*Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey;
We're together on this road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*