

When Jesus said:

Love your enemies, do good
to those who hate you, bless
those who curse you...

He really meant that.

**Order of Worship
February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
10:00 AM**

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

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Love is an all or nothing proposition. Only by loving your enemies as well as your friends do we live as children of the Most High.

Prelude

O Lord of Life

Bianchini

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

Meghan Walker

Come and learn the ways of life.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and learn the ways of life.

Opening Prayer

Meghan Walker

Inexhaustible source of love and life, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of your Son. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong

for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

New Testament

Luke 6:27-38

Meghan Walker

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

There's A Famine in the Land

Pastor Debra

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ.

In Your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.

We confess how difficult it is to truly love the people around us; to care as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good fortune without feeling envious.

Forgive us. Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another.

We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest; putting our needs and desires ahead of the needs of others,

hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely.

Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.

We confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong:

to rationalize our bad decisions and behaviors,

to make excuses for our hurtful words and actions.

Forgive us. Teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right.

We confess that we find it very difficult to love our enemies: to pray for their well-being, to act in their best interests, to leave thoughts of vengeance behind.

Forgive us. Teach us to love even those who hurt or offend us.

You call us to turn away from the behaviors and attitudes

of the world around us;

and to be renewed and transformed by Your grace at work in our lives.

Through Your Holy Spirit,

continue the work that You have begun in us,

so that our words and deeds may bring honor and glory to You. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God's steadfast love and forgiveness never fail. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Meghan Walker

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure...running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Offertory

He Leadeth Me

Bradbury

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Meghan Walker

Source of every blessing, as you sent Joseph into Egypt to save the world from famine, you sent Jesus into our lives to save us from selfishness and greed. For teaching us to treat others as we would have them treat us, we give you our thanks and praise. Bless these gifts that we have received from your bounty, and send them forth to those in need, whether they be friend or foe. For all are your beloved children and our sisters and brothers. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

FWS 2171

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Go with God's blessings.

**As followers of Jesus,
we will love our enemies
and do good to those who hate us.**

Go with God's blessings.

**As followers of Jesus,
we will bless those who curse us
and pray for those who persecute us.**

Go with God's blessings.

**As followers of Jesus, we will do unto others
as we would have them do unto us.**

Go with God's blessings.

Sung Benediction

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

**We go to be the hands of Christ,
To scatter joy like seed
And, all our days, to cherish life,
To do the loving deed.**

Postlude

Come, Thou Almighty King

Broughton

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

*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!*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt,
true faith in you.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*