

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRELUDE

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go, arr. L. Shackley¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 71

Leader: God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection.

People: **From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails.**

Leader: So come, lift your voices in praise to God.

People: **Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 301**

*Let Us Build a House, Two Oaks*²

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive; built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: [Refrain]

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space, as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: [Refrain]

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: [Refrain]

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of life, we admit to you and to each other that we have not always lived lives of love. We have lost patience and been rude. We have been irritable and insisted on our own way. We have even let love end. Forgive us and heal us, dear God, through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate (continue with silent confession...) **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Though we know only in part, we are fully known to God.

People: **By the grace of Christ, God forgives us in love, and calls us to abide in faith, in hope, and in love.**

*ACCLAMATION HYMN 583

*Glory to God, Taize Ecumenical Community*³

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (There is no children's time after the message this week.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 71:1-6

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I

may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

SERMON

Love's Embodiment

***HYMN 693**

Though I May Speak, Gift of Love⁴

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 467

Give Us Light, Jyothi Dho⁵

Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

***HYMN**

God, Whose Love is Always Stronger, Beach Spring⁶

1 God, whose love is always stronger than our weakness, pride and fear, in your world, we pray and wonder how to be more faithful here. Hate too often grows inside us; fear rules what the nations do. So we pray, when wars divide us: give us love, Lord! Make us new!

2 Love is patient, kind and caring, never arrogant or rude, never boastful, all things bearing; Love rejoices in the truth. When we're caught up in believing war will make the terror cease, show us Jesus' way of living; may our strength be in your peace.

3 May our faith in you be nourished; May your churches hear your call. May our lives be filled with courage as we speak your love for all. Now emboldened by your spirit who has given us new birth, give us love, that we may share it till your love renews the earth!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Tocatta in F Major, D. Buxtehude*⁶

Worship Notes:

Offerings and friendship forms may be placed in the plates as you exit the sanctuary. Pencils are available in the Narthex. There is currently no coffee fellowship after worship.

1 Music arrangement: Larry Shackley ©2000 Abingdon Press. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

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3 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979 ©1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

4 Text: Hal Hopson, 1972. Music: English Folk Melody, adapt. Hal Hopson, 1972. Text and Music ©1972 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

5 Text: Charles Vas. Music: Charles Vas, alt. Text and Music: ©1990 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

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7 Music: Public Domain.

Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Liturgist: Jean Loup

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Piano: Dorothy Blotz



WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 30

Congregational Meeting Today at 11:15am—VIA ZOOM

Today is our annual Congregational meeting taking place via Zoom at 11:15am. Check your email for the annual report and a link to the meeting. Or go to zoom.us and enter the following...

Meeting ID: 831 5688 1850

Passcode: 689192

Mission Update

The Mission Committee made another delivery of coats, hats and gloves to Thoreau this week. In total, we have provided about 35 coats and lots of hats and mittens. Thanks to all who purchased coats and left them at church. And to the Knitwits who knit lots of hats and mittens for us to provide!

In addition to cold weather clothes, we were able to support the school by providing little thank you gifts for the substitute teachers who are coming to fill in for teachers--the school is currently experiencing unprecedented staff shortages, as are all schools.

The Mission Committee is so grateful to be able to fill the needs of the school because of Westminster's strong commitment to our Adopt a School program. The Thoreau weekly newsletter included a description of what we do: "At a recent Adopt a School meeting, Principal Davidson asked if we could help create small welcome gifts to provide to any substitute that comes to Thoreau. Just something small to show that we care and that we appreciate the important service a substitute provides for the school. Westminster Church immediately jumped in and offered to purchase an assortment of small gift cards. What a great community partner!

A Special Recognition

Our own Rhea Schultz was recognized by the Madison Area Jail Ministry as the "MAJM Volunteer of the Year." Congratulations Rhea and thank you for your tireless efforts in our community!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List (rotating weekly): Margie Knott, Hugh Moss, Patrick Mullin, Bucky Pike, Joyce Schultze

Members & Friends: Kelly McCann, Dave & Kathy Granquist's daughter Shari, Nancy Prine, Jerry Donnell, Doug Rouse