

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ "Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." − *Robert A. Heinlein*, *Stranger in a Strange Land*
- ❖ "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did."
 − C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity
- ❖ "Love and say it with your life." St. Augustine of Hippo

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We gather to affirm that we are all united in God's sacred family;

People: We are each different and unique, yet we are one as children of God.

Leader: We gather to affirm that we are called to love and serve one another;

People: We learn by Jesus' example to love our neighbor in all that we do.

Leader: We gather to affirm that each of us has gifts to offer;

People: We are members of the one body, each blessed with gifts for God's service.

All: Let us celebrate and worship as a family of God.

PRAISE SONG: All The People Said Amen (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: God of light, we confess that we do not always follow your shining star on the path that reveals your loving presence. Although you accept us unconditionally, we reject people we find hard to love. Although you cherish all of your children without bias or bigotry, we erect walls of prejudice around people different than us. Although you extend your love to all people, we hold back our gifts and service and goodwill as we choose to. Forgive us, God, and pour your love in us so full that there is no room for intolerance. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING/ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Hear the good news: God forgives and gives us the strength and courage to forgive others. By God's grace we can find new paths on which to shine God's light so that God's love is revealed to more people. Be thankful, for you are loved and forgiven.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Help Us, O Lord (music at end of bulletin)

THE FIRST READING: 1 John 4:19-21

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

THE GOSPEL John 21:15-17

Today's scripture is from the last chapter of John, after the resurrection. But a few chapters earlier, there was this incident where Peter denied Jesus three times. He knew Jesus was going to be crucified, and he didn't want to be arrested himself, so when people asked Peter if he knew Jesus, Peter denied it. He said he didn't know Jesus.

Here in today's scripture, Jesus gives Peter a chance to undo it. Jesus asks him three times: Peter, Do you love me? And instead of denying him three times, Peter gets to say three times, "Yes, I love you." It's this awesome story of second chances, of gracious redemption.

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

MESSAGE: "Love is a Verb" Pastor Cristy School

SONG: May the God of Hope Go with Us (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING:

Leader: We have been marked by the cross of Christ. We have heard the Word. We

have been fed by God's meal of grace, and now we are being sent out.

Go into the world in God's peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast to that which is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted.

Support the weak.

Make common cause with the poor and the oppressed.

Help the afflicted, Honor all people.

Love your life and love the One who bestowed it upon you.

May God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer bless us now and forever

People: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Ubuntu (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: We go to Do Life, to walk in love. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



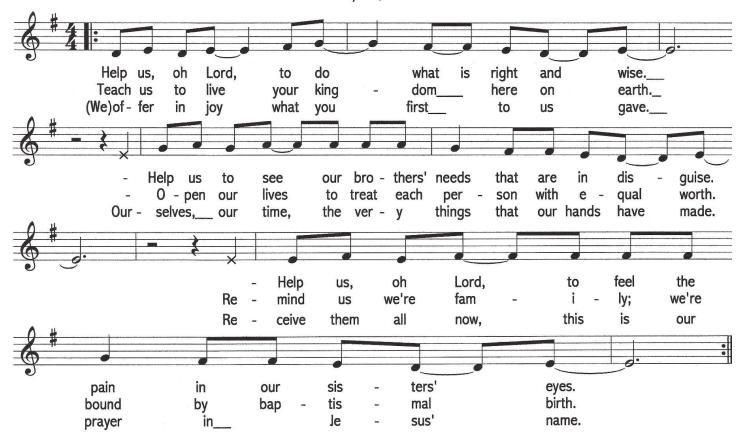
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Ubuntu



Verses (echo song leader)

- 1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
- 2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
- ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring,
 ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
 - ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us

