

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

Gracious God, on this weekend when we celebrate the love within the home, we remember your love embodied in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to model our love after his servant love, which bows down to cradle the vulnerable in hands that offer a healing and life-giving touch. We pray this in his name. Amen

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the loving God, who was born of the promise to a virgin named Mary.

I believe in the love Mary gave her son that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died.

I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of the children, they bear. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity.

I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next.

And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of her joy.

- An Affirmation from John Killinger's, <u>Lost in Wonder</u>, <u>Love</u>, and <u>Praise</u>

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Love shown –

All: in a mother's embrace,

One: a tender look,

All: a helping hand.

One: Love renewed -

All: in a forgiving word,

One: over a cup of tea,

All: in a simple welcome.

One: Love given - **All: by God**,

One: for all,

All: right here, right now.

PRAISE SONG: Made For Love (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

Great God of love, you created us for love, called us to share love and to mirror in our relationships the kindness, care and generosity that you show us. We have good intentions, but we fall short of being truly loving. We look out for number one, focus on being the best and take lightly the needs of others. When harmed or ignored, we look for ways to get back, pay back or turn our backs.

Remind us again that loving ourselves involves loving God and others. Save us from a selfish love, a narrow preoccupation with self that ignores the rainbow of your creation. Teach us to be good friends and faithful companions, and loving families as we follow the way of Christ. In his name. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: I Am (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Revelation 21:1-6

This is from the last book of the New Testament and contains a series of visions experienced by the writer. This vision is near the end of the book and presents a picture of a new heaven and a new earth and God as the victorious and triumphant one, even over death. It is a biblical passage often read at funerals.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saving.

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is

done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

THE GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

As John tells the story of Jesus' life, this comes from part of the book, often referred to as "Jesus' Upper Room Discourses", words of Jesus to His disciples in the second story, or upper room, of a Jerusalem home before His arrest, trial, death and burial. It takes place after Jesus had washed the feet of His disciples, like a household servant would, and reveals that His betrayer would be Judas, who immediately leaves the group. Here Jesus suggests that He would be leaving them, and gives a new commandment to love each other.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

MESSAGE: "The Image of Love" Pastor David School

MESSAGE RESPONSE: I Believe in That Love (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, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Let us go forth as workers together with God proclaiming the Good News, performing deeds of mercy and kindness and giving evidence of Christ's love in all that we do. And may the love of God fill the world through us.

ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: For All (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

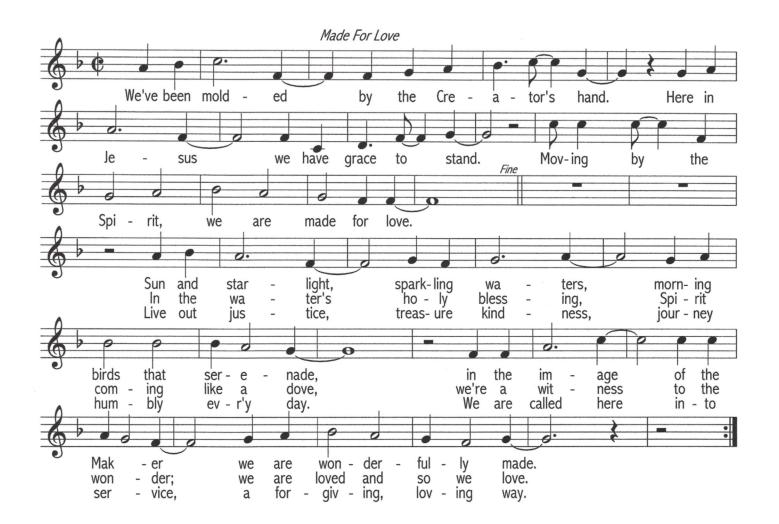
People: Thanks be to God.

Made for Love. Words and Music by Hans Peterson, Larry Olson and Mary Olson. © 1997 Sara Thomsen, admin. by Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

I Am. Words and Music by Handt Hanson. © 1996 Changing Church, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

I Believe in That Love. Lyrics and music by Larry Olson. © 1993 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

For All. Words and Music by Larry Olson and Karol Baer, Copyright 2018 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.



Verse 1:

I am a light, for the burning and I am a dream for the yearning,
I am a tear for the hurting and a gift to give away.
I am a life for the living and I am a hand for the holding,
I am a voice for the singing and a song to fill the day.

Refrain

Verse 2:

I am a voice for the lonely and I am a hand of the holy,
I am a love for consoling when the pain won't go away.
I am a way for the hoping and I am the truth for the doubting,
I am the life for the dying when you think your heart will break.

Refrain

Verse 3:

I am the one who loves you, stands beside you, walks behind you, Watches for you, waits to hold you, wants to tell you how I feel.

Refrain

