

Covenant Community Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (from 1 John 3:1-2)

Leader: See what manner of love our God has given us,
That we should be called children of God, for this is who we are.

People: The reason the world does not know us, is that it does not know God.

Leader: Beloved, we are God's children now.
What we will be has not yet been revealed.

**People: What we do know is this: when Christ is revealed, we will be like Christ,
For we will see Christ as he is.**

**ALL: Join together as the body of Christ in worship,
For we are God's children: beloved, and still coming into who we are.**

*Opening Song

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

*Opening Prayer and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

We Hear The Word

Epistle Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first.

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Song

Behold What Matter of Love

Lectio Devina -- New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

We Respond

Prayers of the People (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Morning Prayer

Closing Hymn #384

More Love to Thee, O Christ

We Are Sent

*Benediction

ALL: The way is long, let us go together. The way is difficult, let us help each other. The way is joyful, let us share it. The way is Christ's, for Christ is the way. His way is open before us; His way is wrapped in love. We will follow. AMEN

*Benediction Response (please stand & turn to face each other as we sing)

The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you, the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you, give you, give you peace.

Leader: Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Denotes all who are able, please stand

Helping Us Worship

Greeter:

Benita Lord

Worship Leaders:

Wayne Border & Billie Hall

Scripture Readers:

Benita Lord & Alice Marsh

Tech Team:

Doug Morrell, Don Turner, & Wayne Border



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