

***Normandy Park United Church of Christ***

*Pastor: Rev. Amy Hitchens*

*Ministers: Every One of Us*

*Director of Music: Kevin Peterson*

*Lay Leaders: Bob G. and Wenden G.*

***Guest Preacher: Rev. Elena Larssen***

***January 30, 2022***

***Bolded text is read and sung in unison***

**WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF GATHERING**

Children of God: welcome!

**Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**We are welcome, just as we are.**

**We are loved, just as we are.**

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

**SONG ~ “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - mighty - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## OPENING PRAYER

### INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT

#### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT ~ *inspired by 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13*

God of Love,

Because love is patient...

**Help me to be slow to judge, but quick to listen,**

**Hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage,**

**Remembering your endless patience with me.**

Because love is kind...

**Help my words to be gentle and my actions to be thoughtful.**

**Remind me to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You"**

**Because those little things still mean so much.**

Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...

**Help me have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others.**

**May I celebrate and appreciate all that I have and all that I am,**

**As well as doing the same for those around me.**

Because love is not rude or self-seeking...

**Help me to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart.**

**When I'm tempted to get wrapped up in my own little world,**

**Remind me there's a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.**

Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...

**Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me.**

**When I want to hold onto a grudge, gently help me release it**

**So I can reach out with a hand of love instead.**

Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...

**Help me stand up for what is right and good.**

**May I defend the defenseless and help the helpless.**

**Show me how I can make a difference.**

Because love always protects and always trusts...

**Help me to be a refuge for those around me.**

When the world outside is harsh and cold,  
 May my heart be a place of acceptance and warmth.  
 Finally, because love always perseveres...  
 Help my heart continually beat with love for You and others.  
 Thank you for showing us what the word love really means. Amen.

**SONG ~ "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**



1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
 2. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our minds;



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly - kind.



There's no place where earth - ly sor - rows are more felt than in God's heav'n;  
 If our love were but more faith - ful we would glad - ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth - ly fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 and our lives would show thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our God.

**SHARING OUR SACRED STORY**

***1 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.

## **REFLECTION**

**SONG** ~ *“The Gift of Love”*

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

And have the gift to all in - spire,  
 And striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
 Our spir - its long to be made whole.

And have not love, my words are vain,  
 But not be giv'n by love with - in,  
 Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;

As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

- Alice and Bill, Judy J.'s friends
- Bob L.
- Christine S. and her brothers
- Diane, Malinda and Jim's daughter
- Donna and Bob, Debbie's mother and stepfather
- Drew C.
- Eileen A.
- Jill E-K.'s father
- Jim K., Lynn's brother
- Jon C.
- Nancy S.'s family and friends
- Paula, Nancy A.'s friend
- Steve, Debbie's father
- Yoko S.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Creator (or Our Mother, or 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,**

**And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**AMEN x5**

## **TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE**

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From your rich and endless store  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by you, we turn to you,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days!*

## **BLESSING**

**SONG** ~ *"Children of God"*

Children of God

♩=116

D G D

Child-ren of God, let's love one an-oth-er. Love is a gift, a bless-

A D G

- ing of God. Love one an-oth-er, sis-ters and broth-ers.

D A D G D

Love is a gift of God.

1. Let love be more than what we say.
2. Now per-fect love re-moves all fear.
3. Let us bear wit-ness to the Light,

A G D Em

Make it the way that we live each day.  
By this we know God is al-ways near.  
liv-ing in love, do-ing what is right.

A D/A A<sup>9</sup> A D/A A<sup>9</sup> D G

1.2. 3.

Oh, oh, Oh, oh, Child-ren of God, let's love one an-oth-er.

D A D

Love is a gift, a bless-ing of God. Love one an-oth-er, sis-

G D A D

- ters and broth-ers. Love is a gift of God.

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Prayer of Commitment by Holley Gerth, posted on *Taking it one step at a time* at <http://onestep87.blogspot.ca/>. Recast with inclusive language by Rev. Elena Larssen.

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