Sunday February 12, A.D. 2012



God is Love

AND THE STORY OF ST. VALENTINE

A "Fountain of Youth Service" that seeks to introduce more playful elements into the liturgical life of our parish; and, give our children more prominent roles in worship.



Saint Philip's Episcopal Church

100 Romeo Street Tel. 248/651-6188



Rochester, MI 48307 www.stpfeeds.org

A SERVICE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

According to rites from the Church of England and the Episcopal Church (USA)

Gathering Music: #721..... Gather Comprehensive II









Gathering Music, "Love God with your heart"Round

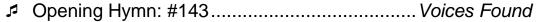


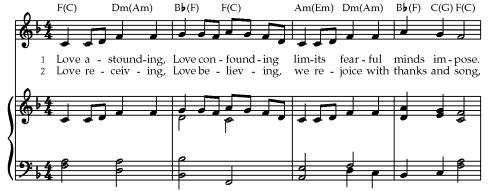


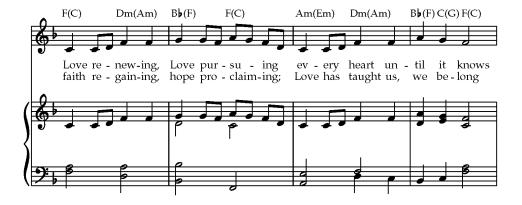


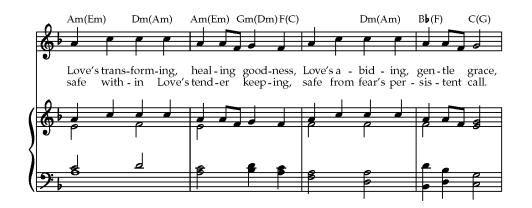
□ Gathering Music: "Pass it On" Kaiser...... Choir Soloists

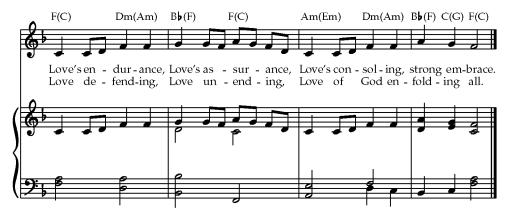
A The Sanctus Bell rings three times calling us to worship and prayer











Capo 5, play C

Words: Jeannette M. Lindholm © 1999 Jeannette M. Lindholm. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: Holy Manna, from The Southern Harmony, 1835; acc. Margaret W. Mealy © Praise Publications.

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Greeting¹

Leader Praise God!

For the Lord our God the almighty reigns!

People Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

Leader Happy are those who have been invited

to the wedding-feast of the Lamb.

People Amen. Praise the Lord!

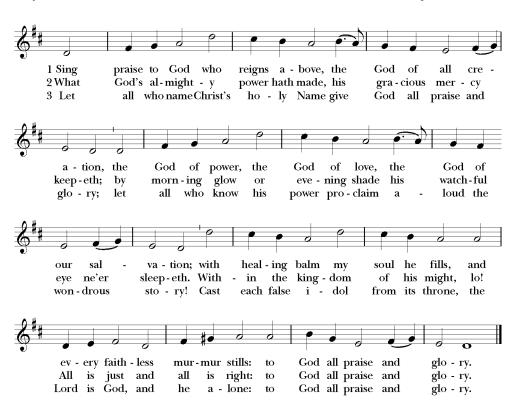
Words of Welcome

Leader

Beloved in the Lord, we have come together to offer our thanks for God's steadfast-loving-kindness, to praise him who is the Savior of the world, and to honor St. Valentine, patron of love, young people, and happy marriages.

¹ A Service for St. Valentine's Day from *New Patterns for Worship* (Church of England)

Hymn of Praise: #408 The Hymnal 1982



Prayer for the Day

God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you, and you alone are the source of life and love. Without you, we cannot please you; without love, our deeds are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, that we may worship you now with thankful hearts and serve you always with willing minds; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession

Leader God shows his love for us in that, while we were still

sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Stand or kneel as you are able. Silence will be kept for a time.

Leader Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

ALL Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgment;

bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Priest May the God of love

bring you back to himself,

forgive you your sins,

and assure you of his eternal love in

Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Scripture, Story and Song

Before beginning the lesson, the reader invites the congregation to respond as follows to these verbal cues. It helps to practice a little.

Joseph "Beloved of Israel"

God "The one who loves us"

A number When a number is mentioned, count from one to that number

Goshen "Ahhhhhhhh"

A reading from the Book of Genesis² Reader

³[Now] **Joseph** asked his brothers if his father was still alive, but they were too frightened to answer. ⁴Joseph told them to come closer to him, and when they did, he said:

Yes, I am your brother **Joseph**, the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵Don't worry or blame yourselves for what you did. **God** is the one who sent me ahead of you to save lives.

⁶There has already been a famine for **two** years, and for five more years no one will plow fields or harvest grain. ⁷But God sent me on ahead of you to keep your families alive and to save you in this wonderful way. 8After all, you weren't really the ones who sent me here--it was God. He made me the highest official in the king's court and placed me over all Egypt.

⁹Now hurry back and tell my father that his son **Joseph** says, "God has made me ruler of Egypt. Come here as quickly as you can. 10 You will live near me in the region of Goshen with your children and grandchildren, as well as with your sheep, goats, cattle, and everything else you own. ¹¹I will take care of you there during the next **five** years of famine. But if you don't come, you and your family and your animals will starve to death."

¹⁴[Then] **Joseph** and Benjamin hugged each other and started crying. 15 Joseph was still crying as he kissed each of his other brothers. After this, they started talking with Joseph.

The Word of the Lord. Reader Thanks be to God. People

² Genesis 45:3-11 & 15, Contemporary English Version

[Cut & Paste]

Reader A reading from the gospel of Luke³.

"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

Reader B

"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

Reader A

"I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

_

³ Luke 6:27-38, *The Message*

Reader B

"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." [pause] The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

[Cut & Paste]

• St. Valentine – the Story in Brief

History tells us that several Christians by the name of Valentine were martyred for their faith. One, very probably a priest, was beheaded on February 14, 270, during a persecution of Christians promoted by the Emperor Claudius II. But as Christianity became more and more accepted in the Roman Empire, a celebration of St. Valentine's love for Jesus and the people of God began to replace an older tradition intended to secure fertility and keep out evil. Thus the custom of exchanging a promise of love was done in different ways over the centuries and evolved into our present tradition of exchanging Valentines on February 14 along with gifts and other special signs of love and affection.

Pass the Valentine Mailbox

This is a variation of the "Pass the Package" game. Participants stand in a circle and pass the mailbox from one to another while the music is playing. When the music stops – randomly, and at irregular intervals – the one holding the mailbox opens it and removes one of the Valentines. They read the message; or in the case of young readers, take it to a parent for help. The game continues until all the Valentines have been opened and read.

Sunday School Children's Anthem "Love, Love, Love"

Love, love, love!
That's what it's all about!
'Cause God loves us,
We love each other,
Mother, father, sister, brother.
Everybody sing and shout
'cause that's what it's all about!
It's about love, love, love!
It's about love, love, love.

Verse 2: "Joy, joy, joy!" Verse 3: "Me, me, me!" Verse 4: "You, vou, vou!"

• Affirmation of Faith

Leader Let us declare our faith in God.

ALL We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Leader We pray for the family of the Church,

for loving relationships,

and for the life of families around us.

Jesus, Lord of Love,

People in your mercy, hear us.

Leader Jesus, born in poverty and soon a refugee,

be with families today who are poor

and live in hunger and want,

especially those who are known to us in Michigan, Ghana, and Nicaragua.

Jesus, Lord of Love,

People in your mercy, hear us.

Leader

Jesus, as you grew in wisdom and in favor with God and the people in the family of Joseph the carpenter, bring wisdom and the presence of God into the work and growth of families today ... Jesus, Lord of love,

Jesus, Lord of love

People

in your mercy, hear us.

Leader

Jesus, as you blessed marriage in the wedding at Cana, be with those preparing for marriage and with those who come to the end of their resources ...

Jesus, Lord of love,

People

in your mercy, hear us.

Leader

Jesus, as you healed Peter's mother-in-law, bring healing to those in our families who are ill today, especially: *N's*Jesus, Lord of love,

People

in your mercy, hear us.

Leader

Jesus, when you were dying you called Mary and John to care for one another.

Provide today for those who lose their families: the bereaved and childless, orphans and widows, [and those who mourn for: *N*].

land those who mount for

Jesus, Lord of love,

People

in your mercy, hear us.

Leader

Jesus, as you ate breakfast on the beach with your disciples after you were raised from the dead, bring the whole Church on earth and in heaven into your risen presence to eat at the eternal banquet.

Jesus, Lord of love,

People

in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers and be with us always. *Amen.*

Priest

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Christ, our Lord of Love. *Amen.*

The Peace

Priest To crown all things there must be love,

to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Blessings

Offertory Anthem "The Gift of Love"......Hopson

THE HOLY COMMUNION FOR ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS

Sanctus #858 Wonder, Love, and Praise

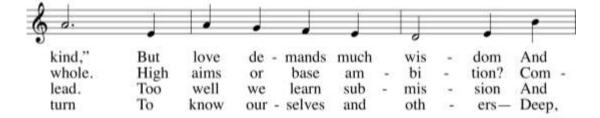


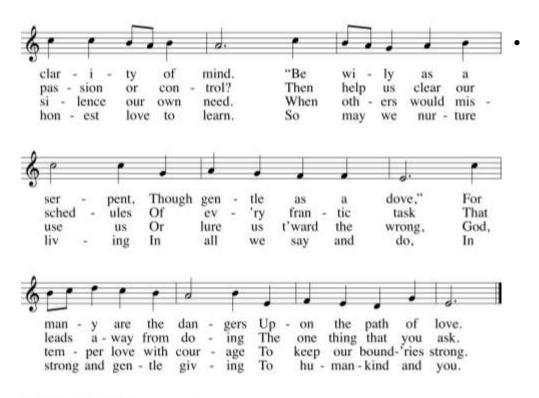


Lord's PrayerPrayer Book, p. 364 Fraction AnthemPrayer Book, p. 364



- and 2. God. help sort us our
- 3. God. teach us strength and 4. O wise and ho - ly
- mo tives, That lov - ing wis - dom When false love Lov - er, Teach us as
- may be takes the sea - sons





Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, € 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hander, 1564-1612; harm, by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Post Communion Prayer

Priest Eternal God,

we offer our thanks that through our earthly lives you speak of your eternal life.

We rejoice in the wonder of creation,

the gift of human life

and the many blessings that our relationships bring. Renew in us the fruits of your Holy Spirit;

that love, joy and peace may abound in our homes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We offer you our souls and bodies, our thoughts and words and deeds, our love for one another.
Unite our wills in your will, that we may grow together in love and peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Priest

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, ♣ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: #728 Gather Comprehensive II





Text: Peter Schohes, b.1938
Time: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b.1938
€ 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991

• St. Philip's Dismissal