
January 1, 2017

Prelude “Once in Bethlehem” Schram

Welcome-

Call to Worship

L: For everything there is a season:

P: And a time for every matter under heaven:

L: A time to be born and a time to die.

P: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

L: A time to break down, and a time to build up.

P: A time to weep and a time to laugh.

L: A time to keep and a time to throw away.

P: A time to be silent and a time to speak.

L: A time to love and a time to hate.

P: A time for war and a time for peace.

L: God has made everything suitable for its time.

P: God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

L: God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

P: Whatever God does endures forever.

Scripture and Song:

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148

Praise Hymns – Choice of Christmas carols

Scripture: Revelation 21: 1-6

Gloria Patri

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 13: 1-9

Time for Young Christians

Anthem Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-16

Message – Encountering God

Hymn – Carol of Choice

Our offering “Christmas Day” Butler

Prayer after offering:

Heavenly Father we bring the offering of our Love Feast, of our money and of our lives.

Accept us all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Love Feast (insert)

Benediction

Postlude “Rocking Carol” Thomas

Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week: Adell Stanbrook; Ralph Stanbrook; Ralph Stanbrook Jr.; Don Stevens; Ann Stevens.

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please contact Melissa Taber (afternoons) at NrUmcOfficeAsst@rochester.rr.com or the church office at 587-9544 (mornings). At other times, please contact Linda Tompkins, she has agreed to be the back-up coordinator. Please contact her at 587-9061.

34 Last Sunday's attendance

We will take Human Relations Day Offering on Sunday, January 15, a day to **support the ministry of Christ among those on the margins.** Thousands of United Methodist communities will come together to receive a special offering that nurtures at-risk youth, strengthens communities' self-improvement efforts and advocates for the oppressed. Over the years, The United Methodist Church has come together to extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles. When you give on Human Relations Day, you stand with the people of The United Methodist Church in our efforts to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ helping all God's children to realize their potential.

Heating Season- now that the days & nights are growing colder, we need your help to save on fuel costs. If you are in charge of an activity at the church, please make sure all interior doors & windows are closed when you leave, and that there is nothing blocking the heat registers. Also, it helps if you check to make sure all lights are off and there is no water left running.

NURSERY care is available for babies, toddlers & pre-schoolers. It is located downstairs (east end of the building). Bathrooms are located downstairs across from the kitchen.

Pastor Rich Neal will be away on vacation this week, returning to the office Thursday, Jan. 5. During this time, Pastor Diane Walker will respond to calls for emergency pastoral care.

Today – 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday – **Church Offices Closed**

Tuesday – 1:00-4:00 p.m. Cards & Games

?6:30 p.m. Trustees

Thursday – 6:00-7:00 p.m. 4H

Sun. Jan. 8 – Epiphany Sunday; Baptism of the Lord

9:15 a.m. Adult/Youth Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship: “At the Gate of the Year”

J4J Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Becky Mitchell

THE LOVE FEAST

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ.

Although its origins in the early church are closely interconnected with the origins of the Lord's Supper, the two services became quite distinct and should not be confused with each other.

The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. His diary notes: "After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love–feasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ." As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism.

The Love Feast is most naturally held around a table or with persons seated in a circle; but it is possible to hold it with persons seated in rows. A church sanctuary, fellowship hall, or home is an appropriate location.

One of the advantages of the Love Feast is that any Christian may conduct it. Congregational participation and leadership are usually extensive and important, especially involving children.

Testimonies and praise are the focal point in most Love Feasts. Testimonies may include personal witness to God's grace or accounts of what God has been doing in the lives of others. Praise may take the form

of hymns, songs, choruses, or spoken exclamations. Wesley counseled that all the above be done decently and in order.

Prayer is vital to a Love Feast. Scripture is also important. There may be scripture readings, or persons may quote Scripture spontaneously as the Spirit moves. There may be a sermon or an address; but it should be informal.

Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. It is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or a sweet bread baked especially for this service. The beverage has usually been water, but other beverages such as lemonade, tea, or coffee have been used. The food is served quietly without interrupting the service.

The Love Feast may also be followed by a full meal, in which case persons or families may bring dishes of food for all to share. During the meal there may be informal conversation in Christian fellowship, or the leader may direct the conversation by suggesting matters of mutual concern, or there may be spontaneous witnessing and praise. If there is food left over, it may be taken as an expression of love to persons not present.

A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION:

Let me be your servant, under your command.

I will no longer be my own, but thine.

I will give up myself to thy will in all things.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

I put myself fully into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me be employed for thee, or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart

give it all to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant, which I have made on earth,

Let it be ratified in heaven.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

THE LOVE FEAST:

Jesus said “People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.” The first shall be last and the last shall be first, but we are all invited.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Heavenly Father, as we share in this feast we praise You for your provision for us.

You have been generous to us. but we have been selfish.

You have provided food for all, but we have not shared it equally.

You have heard our cry, but we have turned away from the cries of others.

Forgive us in Your mercy and set us free to be people who share.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SHARING TIME/TESTIMONIES

When have you witnessed God at work in your life or in the lives of those around you?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

COVENANT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING THE LOVE FEAST:

Today we share food once again as a church, knowing that the Holy Spirit is here. We meet in the name of Jesus Christ to bring praise to Him.

GRACE– DOXOLOGY

Enjoy the food that God and friends have provided