

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, you have shown us your ways and led us in the paths of abundance. You have blessed us and kept us safe. In you we see that we are loved. We offer you our lives, for we have chosen to follow you. We offer you our praise, for your love is great. Use our gifts, our money, and our hearts to establish your realm of love upon the earth. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth to walk in God's ways.

People: May our ways be blameless.

Pastor: Hold fast to God in all you do.

People: Our hearts belong to God.

Pastor: May the love of God be yours.

People: God's blessings rest upon us.

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*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No 898

A-men, a-men, a – men.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'

No. 5557 V. 1 & 4

*POSTLUDE

'Toccata in D Minor'

J. S. Bach

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

February 12, 2023

6th Sunday after the Epiphany



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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Psalm 19' Benedetto Marcello

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT
'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' No. 384

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

People: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Pastor: Whoever does not love does not know God.

People: For God is love.

Pastor: Beloved, since God loved us so much,

People: We also ought to love one another.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, in Your divine wisdom, You have empowered us through Your Holly Spirit to carry Your agape love into the world. Use us, Lord, in every path we walk, to love others. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT 'His Name Is Wonderful' No. 174

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE LOVE FEAST

INTRODUCTION

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals 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. While the Lord's Supper has been practically universal among Christians throughout church history, the Love Feast has appeared only at certain times and among certain denominations.

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 manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."

CENTERING HYMNS 'Surely the Presence of the Lord' No. 328
'Majesty, Worship His Majesty' No. 176

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

WORSHIP THROUGH HYMN SINGING AND TESTIMONY

CANTICLE OF LOVE No. 646

WORSHIP THROUGH HYMN SINGING AND TESTIMONY

GOSPEL READING Matthew 22: 33-40

WORSHIP THROUGH HYMN SINGING AND TESTIMONY

BLESSING PRAYER (Sung to the Tune No. 144 Terra Beata) No. 144
"Father of earth and heaven, thy hungry children feed, thy grace be to our spirits given, that true immortal bread. Grant us and all our race in Jesus Christ to prove the sweetness of thy pardoning grace, the manna of thy love."

SHARING THE LOVE FEAST

WORSHIP THROUGH HYMN SINGING

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has given us growth, guided our steps on the ways that lead to life, and provided companions for our journey. Our very lives are a gift from God. With gratitude and praise, we turn to God with obedient hearts to offer back our gifts, that others may find life and wholeness.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY 'Arioso' J. S. Bach