

THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL

In the closing verse of his great song of love, the apostle Paul makes what seems to be an unusual statement: *There are three things that last forever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love* (1 Corinthians 13:13). Love is the very atmosphere of the Bible. It is the heart of the gospel message of God's love in the redemption of lost humanity. It is the heart of the Christian's walk with God and with his fellow man. It is the environment in which the Christian should live and move.

Even the greatest gifts and virtues are nothing in the sight of God if they are not inspired by love. The Apostle was speaking to the Corinthians, who had a passion for eloquence. To them Paul said that if he should speak with the most exalted human art—even if he should speak with the tongue of an angel—it would be of no profit if he did not have love. If one should understand all mysteries and have all knowledge, it would all be vanity without love. The same is true even of faith. Faith enough to remove mountains, without love, still leaves a man as nothing. What more could one do than offer himself as a martyr for the sake of the gospel? Yet, the Apostle says, even if he should give his body to be burned, if he did not have love, it would be of no value.

Without love the symphony of life becomes a cacophony. Instead of a life ruled by love there is the cacophony of a life that is as sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal.

Take this seriously! In our church or in our private lives, that which we prize the most dearly—that of which we are rightly proud—all this is nothingness apart from love!

To the church in Corinth Paul said, if there are prophecies, they will fail; if there are tongues, they shall cease; if there is knowledge, it will vanish away. However, *there are three things that last forever: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of them all is love.*

*You shall love the Lord
your God with all your
heart and with all you
soul and with all your
mind, and your
neighbor as yourself.*

Luke 10:27

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 97 *“We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 35 *“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 88 *“With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 45 *“Now unto Jehovah, Ye Sons of the Mighty”*

Sermon Text

Luke 23:50-56

Sermon

LOOKING FOR THE KINGDOM

*Hymn of Response # 353

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sunday, January 26. Kat Chen will be publicly received into the membership of our church by reaffirmation of faith. Kat has been examined by our session and approved for church membership. May the Lord make Kat a blessing to us and us to her.