

God is Love.

**All who live in love live in God,
God lives in them.**

May 26, 2024
St. John's Episcopal Church
Powell, WY

Welcome

We are sincerely happy you are with us this morning. We are blessed to sing, pray, listen, and share bread and wine together at Communion. To deepen our connections, please come share a cup of coffee and a bite to eat after the service.

Today is the first of a five-week Sunday series on the 1st letter of John. In this letter, John says love comes from God, and he encouraged the believers to love one another.

Letter of Love from John

While the first epistle of John does not identify an author, most scholars believe it was written by the apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John. Its style, vocabulary, and themes strongly mirror that book. He was a fisherman, the son of Zebedee and brother of James, another of the 12 disciples.

Scholars think 1 John was written around A.D. 85-95 to believers in what is today Turkey, perhaps while living in Ephesus. At the time of its writing, many Christians were experiencing a crisis of faith because of persecution and false teaching. Some had returned to Judaism, and others were floundering, confused by messages that Jesus was perhaps not fully human or the actual Son of God. Still, others struggled with cultural pressure to worship the Roman emperor. Others wrestled with loving one another.

1 John reads more like an encouraging speech or sermon rather than an instructional letter. It is filled with inspiration and reassurance about the core truths of the Gospel, offering simple yet morally critical parallelisms that underscore the message of the cross: love vs. hate, light vs. dark, Christ vs. antichrist, and so forth.

As John writes, “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). Here, the word “fellowship” means a deep communal, covenantal sharing.

Sources

Gathering, Confession, Great Thanksgiving, Post-Communion Prayer and Sending are from *Enriching Our Worship 1* ©1998 by The Church Pension Fund.

The Prayers are inspired by “Prayers for our World,” Katherine Baxter at connectusfund.org; “Prayers of the People: Instruments of Love,” at bibleclaret.org/liturgy-alive/cyclea/; and “30 Powerful Intercession Prayers to Transform Lives and the World,” at ChurchLeaders.com.

Offertory Sentence is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © 2014 by Westminster John Knox Press.

Ministers

Altar Guild	Barb Morales
Sound	Robert Rumbolz
Liturgy Greeter	Cynthia Garhart
Hospitality Greeter	Martha Moewes
Worship Leader	Laura Greathouse
Reader	Elaine DeBuhr
Preacher	Tim Glatzer
Intercessor	Debora Smith
Presider	Susan McEvoy
Communion Server	Jim Morales
Communion Server	Barb Morales
Communion Bread	Cynthia Garhart
Fellowship Time	Elaine DeBuhr

Prayer Concerns

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Central Africa
 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff,
 St. Thomas', Rawlins

<p>The Schmieder and McKeen Families; Kenny & Michael; Martha & Family; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike; Richard & Jennifer; Richmond & Rich; Nelson & Nancy; Carolyn & Family; Lee & Kelly; Hugh B. & Marge; Tim & Alex; Margie & Josey; Tim & Lynnae; Bobbi & Bentley; Bob & Charlotte</p> <p>Don who resides in an assisted living facility.</p>	<p>Kim, Tuti Rosita, Marlynn, Kathy R., Douglas, Mickey, Mike G., Cynthia, Carra, Rob R., Kathy E., Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Alan, Katy, Sue, Kahli, Ron and Jane</p> <p>Bennett, Daryn, Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce who are serving in the military.</p>
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Celebrations

Birthday: Jen Litterer-Trevino—28th, Augusta Larsen—31st, Donovan Riley—June 1st,

Prelude

“God Is Love,” Paul Cardall.

Hymn

1 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured,
2 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—spread his praise from
3 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery

bound - less, free! Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its
shore to shore! How he loves us, ev - er loves us, chang - es
love the best! 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'tis a

full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
nev - er, nev - er - more! How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,
ha - ven sweet of rest! O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—

is the cur - rent of thy love— lead - ing on - ward,
died to call them all his own; how for them he's
'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me

lead - ing home - ward, to thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
in - ter - ced - ing, watch - ing o'er them from the throne!
up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

Gathering

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving Jesus: Protect and sustain us with your hand.
Open the door of your love that, sealed with your wisdom,
we may be free to serve you with joy. Amen.

Praise

Refrain

God is love, and all who live in love a - bide in God, and

God a - bides in them. God a - bides in them.

The musical notation is written on a treble clef staff in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The refrain consists of a single line of music. The first verse is marked with a '1' and a repeat sign, and the second verse is marked with a '2' and a repeat sign. The second verse ends with a double bar line and a '4' indicating a four-measure rest.

The First letter of John

After the reading

Word of God, word of love.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers

We open our hearts to our good and gracious God who directs, guides and
inspires us in all that we do saying,
God of light, **make us instruments of your love.**

The Intercessor continues, closing with the following

Gracious and merciful God, renew in us a deeper sense of who we are in you.
May your peace be in our hearts, your grace be in our words, your love be in our hands
and your joy be in our souls. Help us to be aware of your presence each day,
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

We stand.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help?

With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Music

"Love and Joy," Ingrid.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.

You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. John and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Lord’s Prayer

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

Bread is Broken

The Leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first. Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving the bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

Music

“Psalm 136,” Poor Bishop Hooper.

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts,” Red Mountain Church.

Post-communion Prayer

We stand.

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation,

you have united us with Christ and one another,

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn



1. God is Love, let heav'n a - dore him; God is Love, let earth re -
2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, All the world in one em -
3. God is Love; and though with blind - ness Sin af - flicts all hu - man

1. joice; Let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him And ex -
2. brace: With un - fail - ing grasp God holds us, Ev - 'ry
3. life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing kind - ness Guides us

1. alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun - da - tion,
2. child of ev - 'ry race. And when hu - man hearts are break - ing
3. through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shal nev - er

1. God who spreads the heav'n's a - bove, God who breathes through
2. Un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, Then we find that
3. O'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

1. all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
2. self - same ach - ing Deep with - in the heart of God.
3. Love for ev - er O'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Text: 87 87 D; Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.; fr. *Sermons and Hymns*.
Music: ST. CECILIA, © 1998, Gerard Chiusano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Sending

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed.
Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you
by the One who never lets you go.
Seek out those who ask the sacred questions,
And be ready to answer a mystery with love.
We go into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia!

Postlude

“Come We That Love the Lord,” Artisans in Brass.