

Ephraim Moravian Church
Valentine's Day
February 14, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Order of Service

"Prière à Notre-Dame" - by Lèon Boëllmann

Welcome & Announcements

"The Prayer" - by David Foster & Carole Sager

Watchword for the Week: *'For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake'* – 2 Corinthians 4:5

Hymn #672: "They Who Jesus' Followers Are"

They who Jesus' followers are
And enjoy his faithful care
By a mutual, hearty love
Their belief in Jesus prove.

By your reconciling love
Ev'ry stumbling block remove
Each to each unite, endear
Come and spread your banner here.

Prayers of the Church / The Lord's Prayer
Congregational Sung Response (#825):

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.*

Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 13

Reflection

"There Were Bells on the Hills ('Til There Was You)" - by Meredith Wilson

Sermon

Benediction

"Carillon-Sortie" ("The Bells Ring Out") - by Henri Mulet

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Reflection - by Rev. Cory Kemp

Celebrating Valentine's Day comes as we complete a year of living with a global pandemic. It's a mixed bag of emotions we're about today, isn't it? On the one hand, expressing joyous affection with cards, treats and gestures for those we love is timeless and fun. On the other hand, even though we are beginning to see the hoped-for light at the end of the tunnel through world-wide vaccination programs, we are still wearing face masks, keeping our distance and doing Zoom candlelight dinners. It's not quite the same. In a world shut down to protect our collective health, what is? Well, love is.

Love is still the same as it has always been. Love is still patient, kind, generous, modest, humble and polite. Love allows other people to have their way sometimes, without being irritable or resentful of them. Love may help another see the error of their ways, but those who love, rejoice because situations are made right, realigned for the greatest good of all, not because they are right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love does not end. Ever. Even the harsh, everyday realities of a pandemic, a massive situation full of inconvenience, challenges, loss, economic hardship and deprivation, will eventually come to an end. Because, unlike love, pandemics do end.

What is important as we keep moving through these days is to remember what love is, what it looks like, and that we can choose to keep receiving and sharing it. God is love, and God's love for us is real, everlasting, inclusive. No one is left out, and everybody who wants to, gets to participate. *"For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So, faith, hope, love, abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe
Music Director.....Colin Welford
Guest Singers.....Allie Babich, Jeff Herbst



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