

Worship Service on August 20, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Ken Taylor

Tuesday ~ Pastoral Relations Committee meeting at 3:30 pm.

Thursday ~ Choir rehearsal is starting back up after our summer break.
7:00 pm in the fellowship room.

Thank you to Theresa Taylor for preaching this week. We are so blessed to have talented people in our congregation who are able to lead worship services in the absence of Pastor Rebecca.

Thank you to Russ and Glenna Taxter for the flowers this morning in memory of Russell, Sr. and Dorothy Taxter.



Happy Birthday to Jim Comar on Wednesday.

Opportunity ~ The Community Food Cupboard is collecting back-to-school items for August. The full list can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship room.

Word of Preparation ~ Ken Taylor

Prelude ~ Jim Holden will play and sing as we prepare our hearts for worship.

“Love Each Other”

©2009 – Graham Kendrick/Make Way Music Ltd.

Call to worship: Ephesians 3:18,19 read by Ken Taylor. Please join in reading the bold lines.

And I pray that you

Being rooted and established in love

Together, with all the Lord’s holy people,

To grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

And to know this love that surpasses knowledge –

That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Lord, we echo the words of Paul’s prayer as we worship you today.

Help us all to know your love.

Song ~ “The Gift of Love” (#526 in the blue hymnal)

Though I may speak with bravest fire,

And have the gift to all inspire,

And have not love, my words are vain,

As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,

And striving so my love profess,

But not be given by love within,

The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

Our spirits long to be made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed;

By this we worship, and are freed.

Words ~ Hal H. Hopson, 1972 Music ~ Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal. H. Hopson, 1972

Praying Together ~

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever,
Amen.**

Song ~ “*Fill the World with Love*” (#467 in the blue hymnal)

*With the vision in our minds of how the world could be,
And the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see;
When we make all that we are and have part of God’s destiny,
We can fill the world with love,
We can fill the world with love.*

*All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear,
Crying out into the night, wond’ring when someone will hear;
While there are so many others having so much they can share,
Can we fill the world with love,
Can we fill the world with love.*

*We whose spirits long to share, long to comfort and to heal,
Know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel;
But together as we labor God’s compassion to reveal
We will fill the world with love,
We will fill the world with love.*

*Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay;
there’s a pow’r at work within us that has promised a new day.
And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed
When God fills the world with love,
when God fills the world with love.*

Words ~ David L. Edwards, 1992 Music ~ David L. Edwards, 1992; arr. Susan Adams
1994

Sermon Introduction ~ Theresa Taylor

Scripture Passage ~ Philemon (NIV) read by Ken Taylor

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— 2 also to Apphia our
sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in
your home:

3 Grace and peace to you[a] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I
hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord
Jesus. 6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective
in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the
sake of Christ. 7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement,
because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.

Paul’s Plea for Onesimus

8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what
you ought to do, 9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is
as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ
Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,[b] who became my
son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he
has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 13 I would
have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in

helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. 15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 20 I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

22 And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.

24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Sermon ~ “Living Out a Radical Love”

~ Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor

Song ~ “*Lord, I Want to be a Christian*” (#589 in the blue hymnal)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

*In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.*

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

Words ~ African-American spiritual Music ~ African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivils, 1993

Benediction

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.