

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP RESOURCES

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.*
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (NIV)

Prayer of Invocation

Giver of life, we open ourselves – body, mind and spirit – to worship this day with an attitude of generosity and gratitude. We pray that faith, hope and love would fill us and our faith community so that it carries into our neighborhoods and across the world which you so lovingly created. Indeed, let love be known in all that we say and do. In the name of the one who showed us what love is, the name of Jesus. Amen.

Responsive Reading¹

ONE: Love is patient,

ALL: but sometimes we want things to happen on our schedule.

Love is kind,

but we do not always show that in our actions towards others.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude,

but there are times when we are.

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

but rejoices in truth and freedom.

Love bears, believes, hopes and endures.

Our deepest desire is to do the same.

Love is compassionate action.

Love is resilient determination.

Love digs deeper.

Love gives more.

Love is made evident in big and small ways,

and the world is a better place.

¹This litany includes phrases from the video, Love Remains.

Communion Prayer

God who abides with us and who comes to us in so many ways – through the prophets and the judges, through men and women through the ages, even through a still small voice: You sent us your Son, Jesus Christ, who showed us that even when we were not loved by the world, you loved us with an unyielding love. Then you sent your Spirit, the same one which hovered over creation and came at Pentecost in a new way, so that we might be empowered to love others as we have been loved.

Though we often see things dimly, as in a cloudy mirror, and we know only in part what you still have to reveal to us, love gathers us around the table. When all else seems unclear, we gather to remember the promise of Jesus-- that even when he seems to be gone from our midst, his love remains. Amen





Prayer of Thanksgiving

Love is a drink of clean water and a breath of clear air.

For the opportunity to contribute to these necessities,

we give you thanks, O God.

Love is a warm blanket given to a refugee family in an unfamiliar place.

For the opportunity to wrap another in the fabric of love,

we give you thanks, O God.

Love is a pathway to home ownership after a tornado rips through a community.

For the opportunity to bring another person home,

we give you thanks, O God.

Love is women empowered to support themselves by raising chickens.

For the opportunity to help make this dream a reality,

we give you thanks, O God.

Love is people responding to the needs of a hurting world, trusting that love can make a difference.

For the opportunity to respond in our own community,

we give you thanks, O God.

Love is people serving their neighbors, believing that transformation is possible.

For the opportunity to transform the world,
we give you thanks, O God.

Invitation to the Offering

Around the world, gifts given by this faith community to Week of Compassion weave together a tapestry of faith, hope, and love in action. We are grateful for the opportunity to change the world through our acts of kindness, large and small.

Maria von Trapp (whose story inspired *The Sound of Music*) once said, “It will be very interesting one day to follow the pattern of our life as it is spread out like a beautiful tapestry. As long as we live here we see only the reverse side of the weaving, and very often the pattern, with its threads running wildly, doesn’t seem to make sense. Someday, however, we shall understand.”²

The tapestry we weave includes a mother working alongside an entire community to rebuild her child’s school after a hurricane; a new homeowner starting over after a devastating tornado; and chickens providing a new future for a family. We cannot be in all of these places ourselves or even see them with our own eyes; but through our generous gifts, we can show that love remains, in spite of all obstacles. Let us give, joyfully and generously, in that spirit.

Prayer of Dedication

We offer these gifts, O God, in the spirit of love. May the gifts that we offer this day embody our loving response to your great love for us. Through these gifts, may others see clearly the love of Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

²Trapp, Maria Augusta. *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* (William Morrow Paperbacks/HarperCollins, 2001), 83.