

LIP

Readers' Service

Love One Another

by

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Number: 25

ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord says, "You are precious and honoured in my sight, and I love you."

SF 503
Hymn: ~~H&P 267~~: Love divine

PRAYER OF ADORATION

(Read without announcement Psalm 97:1-6, 9-12, then continue in prayer as follows)

*We worship you, Almighty God, sovereign of heaven and earth.
We worship you in both the awe and the beauty of your holiness.
Were you to withdraw your breath for one moment we should die.
Were you to turn your face from this earth, then light and colour, form and beauty,
joy and love, would collapse into chaos and violence.
You sustain all things by your powerful word.*

Except evil. Evil you hate. Evil and those who continue to love it you have sworn to destroy.

Holy Judge of all, root out of us all that is not of you.

We give you permission right now for your Holy Spirit to penetrate any darkness within us, to expose and destroy anything in us which is not the fruit of love.

We seek to be your holy people. We pray this prayer knowing that it involves risk, but knowing that the alternative of trying to stand before a holy God with sin in our hearts does not bear thinking about.

Father, pour your love over us that we really will be willing to take that risk of letting you destroy those things within us that will otherwise destroy us.

*In Jesus's name.
Amen.*

God loves us too much to want us to stay the way we are. So we need to pray prayers of risk like that one.

Song: ~~Songs of Fellowship 226: I love you Lord~~

AND/OR another song of love to God

OR

SF WHO Amazing Grace
Hymn: ~~H&P 48: Thy ceaseless, unexhausted love~~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Psalm 116:14, GNB

The psalmist says, "In the assembly of all his people I will give him what I have promised." But, Lord, we are conscious that even if we do fulfil every promise made we can never give enough. Take our lives, our days, our all, in the service of your son, our king.
Amen.

READING 1 John 3:11-18

(3)

SP 238 head us heavenly father

lead us

Hymn: H&P 526 (H&P) It passeth knowledge, that dear love of thine

PRAYER (of thanksgiving, confession and openness)

Lord, we thank you for your word.

We thank you for your Spirit who has been moving to apply it to our lives in a variety of ways.

Help us to allow you to finish that work as we wait on you now.

If we need to confess our mishandling of your love, grant us true repentance.

If we need to pledge ourselves to a new kind of loving, grant us faith to do so and follow it up in action.

If we need to put a relationship right, give us the power to do that and the help to do it quickly.

If we need to be made weak and vulnerable, to have our protective shells broken, may we not delay any longer but trust you to know what is best for us.

Come yourself, and minister to us, loving God.

(Pause)

Song: Songs of Fellowship 329: Let there be love shared among us"

OR

Hymn: H&P 754: Bless be the tie

SP 247

I danced in the morning

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of love, we pray for the unloved and the unlovely.

We hold before you the countless people whose lives have been scarred by rejection,

and who have become victims of their own bitterness. We are conscious that there are so many who need just one person who will accept them as they are and teach them how to love. Lead them to such people and help them to take the risk of trusting.

We pray for those for whom love has gone sour. We lift to you all who have suffered broken relationships. Partners and children who suffer as a result of separation or divorce, those in one-parent families particularly where that was in no way by choice. We pray for children, in some cases now grown up but still wounded for life, by abuse. And we remember too all who have been bereaved and who seek to rebuild lives without a loved one.

We pray for all involved in caring work, especially among those hardened by age or disease and who find it hard to receive love. We call down your blessing upon those ministering to the mentally or emotionally disturbed, a ministry which consumes so much time and often remains almost thankless. We pray too for all who share in counselling and listening services of any kind, professionally or as volunteers.

We pray for the church's ministry, especially in this city/town/village, and in particular its outreach to those who know not the love of Christ and the saving power of the gospel. And in that we are part of that church and that mission we ask that you would teach us Lord what it means to love one another in such a way that from our love the world will see that we are disciples of Jesus.

In his name we pray, and further seek the coming of his kingdom as we pray in the words he taught us:

Prayer Book details.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymn: H&P 762: ~~May the grace of Christ our Saviour (which will be our parting blessing for one another).~~

OR

Hymn: H&P 463: ~~To God be the glory~~

SF 94 To God be the glory

(followed by this doxology from Psalm 72:18-19, RES)

*Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous things;
blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen*