



“Love is a Choice”

Matthew 5:43-48

Saturday, February 16 & Sunday, February 17, 2019

5:30 PM & 9 AM

Welcome to DeWitt Community Church
Saturday, February 16 & Sunday, February 17, 2019
5:30 PM & 9:00 AM

Thought for Today

“Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prelude

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth (#40)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Gracious God, You call us to do the impossible; to love our enemies, to confront injustice and to share our bounty with those in need.

People: Lord, teach us how to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even more to love our enemies as You have loved us.

Leader: Merciful Savior, You call us to imitate You. Help us to see each person through Your eyes.

People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and the light of Christ shine through our lives.

Leader: As Your children who imitate You, align us to Your ways, O Lord, in which love abounds and You are praised.

People: Bless us Lord in your grace and fortify us with Your love.

*Unison Prayer:

As we walk through this world of injustice and despair, gracious Lord, help us to live differently. Empower us to discern Your will, to walk in Your ways and to love as You first loved us. God of mercy and of grace, help us to make love a way of life where we impact this world with your transformational power. Amen.

Greeting & Announcements

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Time of Song

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace (#587)
"Forever Reign" by Hillsong United

[Verse 1]

You are good, You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love, You are love
On display for all to see
You are light, You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope, You are hope
You have covered all my sin

[Verse 2]

You are peace, You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true, You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy, You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life, You are life
In You death has lost its sting

[Chorus]

Oh, I'm running to Your arms,
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love Will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

[Verse 3]

You are more, You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord, You are Lord,
All creation will proclaim
You are here, You are here,
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God, You are God,
Of all else I'm letting go

[Bridge]

My heart will sing no other Name, Jesus, Jesus

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV) (p. 986)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Love is a Choice"

Rev. Cindy Mapstone

Communion

This morning, we invite you to come forward for communion. You will be offered a piece of bread. Please take your piece of bread and partially dip it in the cup to receive both elements together. Please feel free to respond by saying: "Amen", "Thanks be to God, or "Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ." Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the serving basket.

*Closing Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love (#595)

*Blessing

Postlude

Worship Assistant: Kay Paulsen/Karl Turner

*Please stand as you are able

The flowers today are in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the first date of the Buchanan's on Valentine's Day, 1959.

Offerings from today's service may be placed in the Offering Jars located on the Usher Stands. Your generosity makes a great difference in our ability to do God's work as a congregation. Please feel free to give via credit card, debit card, or PayPal on our secure e-giving site give.dewittchurch.org on your mobile phone or other internet connected device.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers, Senior Minister
Rev. Alan R. Rudnick, Associate/Executive Minister
Rev. Cindy Mapstone, Associate/Family & Congregational Care Minister
Rev. William A. Carlsen, Adjunct Minister
Rev. Edwin F. Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus
Dr. Landrum H. Wooten, Associate Minister Emeritus

Staff

Abel Searor, Director of Worship Arts/Principal Organist
Gloria Trode, Director of Children's Music
Nicholas MacLane, Director of Creative Worship
Mary Chirello, Youth Director & Hospitality Coordinator
Mick Thorpe, Director of Building Services
Alyssa Eighmey, Office Manager
Peter Hawley, Communications Coordinator
Jane Hahn, Bookkeeper
Reinaldo Mercado, Building Staff
Liam McDonough, Building Staff
Jim Surdam, Building Staff

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Connect with us!

Office 315-445-0331
Pastor on Call (24/7) 315-303-2308

Helpful Links

Website: www.dewittchurch.org
Facebook: [DeWitt Community Church](#)

