

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
**Sunday, February 2, 2025 — 11:00 AM**

Thought for the Day

“Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now--in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now--through us--because God loves us.”

— Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*

Prelude

**Suite for Organ: “Prayer”**  
by Paul Creston

Invitation to Worship

\*Opening Hymn

**This is My Father’s World (#21)**

\*Call to Worship

Leader: God’s word comes to us today: Before we were born, God knew us and set us apart.

**All: We are sent into the world to share God’s prophetic word.**

Leader: Let us not think that we are too old or too young to proclaim the Good News.

**All: God sends us and we must go and share God’s marvelous deeds and works.**

Leader: God has placed scripture in our hearts, minds, and souls.

**All: Let us worship and live in such a way that we go, build, and plant words and acts of goodness in all nations.**

\*Prayer of the Day

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Patient God, we come to worship today to hear your Good News, to hear of faith, hope, and love ringing out from your kingdom. We know that doubt, fear, and hatred can shake even the strongest. Shape us into faithful hopeful people, fill us with your love that passes all understanding. We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. One God forever and forever. 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.**

Invitation to Give

Give via credit card at [give.dewittchurch.org](http://give.dewittchurch.org) or @dewittchurch on Venmo.

Offertory

\*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

(#34)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Leader: The Word of The Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

Anthem

**The Love of God**  
arr. by Eric Nelson

Message

**Christianity 101: Why Love?**

Rev. Dr. Alan Rudnick

Communion

**There Is a Balm in Gilead**  
Arr. By William L. Dawson

*This morning, we invite you to come forward for communion. You will be offered a piece of bread and a small cup of juice to partake and consume at the communion station. 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 plate.*

\*Closing Hymn

**The Gift of Love (#397)**

\*Benediction

Postlude

**Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren**  
By J.G. Walther

**Worship Assistant:** Ben Titus  
**Livestream Tech:** Andrew Magee  
*\*Please stand as you are able.*



Streaming live to and   
Every Sunday at 11 AM

**We need a few good volunteers!**

DCC is serving lunch at the Samaritan Center on February 23rd

9:00 - NOON food preparation shift - one person is needed

12:30 - 3:00 serving food and clean up shift - four people are needed

Must be at least 16 years old (14-15 year olds can help with an adult)

Contact Amy Dupell at [adupell1@verizon.net](mailto:adupell1@verizon.net) or the church office to sign up

## CONNECTION CARD

Today's date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone / email

Phone / email

### Select all that apply:

- I am new to DCC.
- I am a returning visitor / occasional attendee.
- I am a member.
- I would like to receive the monthly newsletter.
- I would like to receive the weekly e-mail announcements.
- I would like to receive care from a Stephen Minister.

### I would like to share my gifts/talents with:

- Children's/Youth Ministry
- Altar Guild
- Christian Caring Committee
- Compassion Cooks
- Women's Association
- Choir/Bell Choir
- Ushers
- Facilities & Grounds
- DCC Office

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Alan R. Rudnick, Senior Minister  
Ben Titus, Associate Minister  
Rev. William A. Carlsen, Adjunct Minister

### Staff

Abel Searor, Director of Worship Arts/Principal Organist  
Mick Thorpe, Director of Building Services  
Kim Maring, Financial Manager & Office Coordinator  
Jennifer Russo, Communications Coordinator  
Kathleen Sokolovic, Office Assistant  
Anne Stock, Children's Ministry Director  
Logan Roadarmel, Youth Ministry Director  
Barb Turner, Children's Ministry Staff  
Liam McDonough, Building Staff  
Elizabeth Chapman, Volunteer Congregational Care Coordinator

**Ministers:** The Entire Congregation

### Connect with us!

Office 315-445-0331

### Helpful Links

**Website:** [www.dewittchurch.org](http://www.dewittchurch.org) / **Facebook:** [thedewittchurch](https://www.facebook.com/thedewittchurch)  
**YouTube:** [DeWitt Community Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDeWittChurch) / **Instagram:** [@DeWittChurch](https://www.instagram.com/DeWittChurch)



### Every gift matters!

Support DCC with a gift via credit, debit, or PayPal on our secure e-giving site: [give.dewittchurch.org](https://give.dewittchurch.org)  
Or Venmo [@dewittchurch](https://venmo.com/dewittchurch)  
**Thank you!**

*The Parlor is open with a simulcast of worship for families or individuals.  
Hearing assistance devices are available from an usher in the Narthex. They are wireless and permit users to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary.  
Large print bulletins are available each Sunday at the Usher's Desk.*



## Christianity 101: Why Love?



**1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13**

February 2, 2025  
11:00 AM