

Responsive Reading

John 15:9; Deuteronomy 6:5; Psalms 40:16;
Psalms 116:1; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:28

As the Father hath loved me, so have I
loved you: continue ye in my love.

**And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with
all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and
with all thy might.**

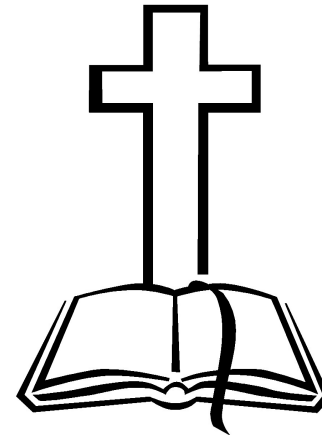
Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be
glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation
say continually, The LORD be magnified.

**I love the LORD, because he hath heard my
voice and my supplications.**

The love of God is shed abroad in our
hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given
unto us.

**And we know that all things work together
for good to them that love God.**

Worship Service



The Power of Love

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Closing Prayer

Gift of Love by Barbara Spicuglia

One day long ago,
The world was spinning 'round.
The people came and went.
They lived their lives, but they were bound
By every deed and word they spoke:
They did not know true love.
But on that day our Father saw from above.
He said: "Now is the time; I've waited long.
Do you think they will be ready?
Now is the time; I'll sing my lovesong:
I'll give my Son."
And so the Father sent His Son
To live a life of love.
His name is Jesus Christ our Lord,
But you know, living wasn't enough.
He shed His blood on a cross:
The Lamb slain for our sin,
And on the third day
He rose again!

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

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"The Power of Love"

Opening Prayer: Dear Father in Heaven, we seek to honor You today for Your kindness, Your patience, Your mercy, and Your love for us. We would have no hope without You in our hearts. Bless this service that our worship will reflect our love for You. You know what each one needs today - those who have been able to come to the service and those who would like to be here. Meet us Lord, at our point of need. We thank You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Devotion:

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1 John 4: 7-9

The following is a true story. It goes something like this: In the early days of aviation, a small postal service company was trying to establish air mail over the Andes mountains between Peru and Argentina. They hired a young, brave pilot who was newly wed. The couple was deeply in love. Not long after taking the job, due to unexpected problems, the young man ran out of gas in the middle of the huge mountain range. He crash landed in a frozen, jagged wasteland in the middle of the Andes. For days he waited for rescuers to find him. He saw one plane searching for him, but they did not see the flare he fired. A few hours later a blizzard swept into the mountains. He knew the search would be called off.

Though the rule is for survivors to stay at the crash site, it became clear to the downed flier that his only hope was to find his way out of the mountains before he starved or froze to death. His thoughts were absorbed by the vision of his little wife waiting and praying patiently, as she did on each of his flights, for him to come home.

Scaling peak after peak, the prospects of success diminished each time he broke the next crest just to see more of the forbidding wasteland stretching as far as he could see in every direction.

"The Power of Love" continued

After many days of struggle, fighting frostbite and overwhelmed with the hopelessness of his situation, he finally decided in his frozen delirium to lie down and die. He built a pillar of rocks around him to mark his body and began to say goodbye to his beloved wife. But the thought of her tormented despair . . . the longing in his heart to comfort her

Deep within his being he could hear her calling, "Don't give up! I love you! I need you!"

Somehow, somehow, the lost pilot's stiffened limbs moved. The rocks piled to mark his death slowly rolled away. He dragged his body erect with determination, ignoring the agony, ignoring the hopelessness. A few hours later, exhausted and frostbitten, the lost young man tumbled off a shelf of snow on a mountainside into a valley of grass where a shepherd found him and brought the rescuers to his aid.

As soon as the delivered newlywed, warm and recovering, could get to a phone, he called his precious wife. All he said was: "I love you, thank you for saving my life!"

In our own situation, we are much like that pilot. We find ourselves often in dire straits, enduring hardship and pain. As Christians we are on a spiritual trek in a hostile land, struggling with our own weakness in the face of terrible odds. Have you ever felt like giving up? The lost pilot found strength in the love he and his wife shared for each other. May God grant us such a vision of His love for us, that no matter what comes our way, the love He has for us and the love we have for Him will keep us faithful! Let us always remember how He loves us - He gave His only begotten Son!

Closing Prayer: Father, fill our hungry hearts with Your love. We thank You with all that is in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.