



# PRAYER MEETING

June 14

The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

# **Welcome and Opening Prayer**      **Pastor Chris**

## **Call to Worship**                      **Galatians 5: 13-14, 16-24**

New International Reader's Version

My brothers and sisters, you were chosen to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to live under the power of sin. Instead, serve one another in love. The whole law is fulfilled by obeying this one command. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your desires controlled by sin want you to do. The desires controlled by sin do not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the desires controlled by sin delight in. The two are at war with each other. That's why you are not supposed to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the authority of the law.

The result of sin's control in our lives is clear. It includes sexual sins, impure acts and wild living. It includes worshiping statues of gods and worshiping evil powers. It also includes hatred and fighting, jealousy and fits of anger. Sinful desire is interested only in getting ahead. It stirs up trouble. It separates people into their own little groups. It wants what others have. It gets drunk and takes part in wild parties. It does many things of that kind. I warn you now as I did before. People who live like this will not receive God's kingdom.

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful desires to his cross. They don't want these things anymore.

Today, Lord, we thank you for the Holy Spirit's fruit of love.

# Music

Quiet your hearts and minds as you listen to today's music. Open to God and listen to what the Holy Spirit might say to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fylslaNsJ5o&list=TLPQMDQwNjlwMjCfD0jUd-mcVA&index=2>

Audrey Assad Spirit of the Living God

# Praise

## Congregational Reading from the Psalms

Read Together

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be  
put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a  
rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,  
because you have seen my affliction;  
you have known the distress of my soul.

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my  
body also.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your  
steadfast love! *Psalm 31: 1-2, 7, 9, 14, 16*

For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is  
done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of  
the steadfast love of the LORD.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love.

*Psalm 33:4-5, 18*

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep;

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your  
delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light do we see light. *Psalms 36: 5-9*

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love.

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and  
our shield

For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you. *Psalms 33: 18, 20-22*

## **Reading about the word of the day**

For the fruit of the Holy Spirit is **love**

God's loyal love for us is causeless, measureless, and ceaseless. Nothing in us merited or evoked his love; indeed, Christ died for us when we were his ungodly enemies.

God's love is spontaneous and unending—he loved us because he chose to love us, and if we have responded to Christ's offer of forgiveness and relationship with him, nothing can separate us from that love or diminish it. This means that we are secure in the Lord's unconditional love; since we belong to Christ, nothing we do can cause God to love us more, and nothing we do can cause God to love us less.

God initiates this relationship, and we love him because he first loved us. Loving God completely is the key to loving self correctly (seeing ourselves as God sees us), and this in turn is the key to loving others compassionately.

As we grow in our understanding of God's unconditional love and acceptance of us in Christ, we are increasingly liberated from using people to meet our needs." *Kenneth Boa, Conformed to His Image, pgs 30, 42*

# Scripture Reading

Shirley Paz

**1 John 4:7-21** New International Version

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

# Reflect

## Scripture Reading repeated

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## **Responsive Reading Mark 12:28-34**

Pastor Chris

**Leader:** And one of the scribes came up and asked Jesus, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

**People:** Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**Leader:** And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him.

**People:** And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

**Leader:** And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.

**Together:** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:8-10**

**Leader:** Lord, we pray for God's love to be the foundation of our hope

**People:** We pray for God's mercy in stopping the spread of this virus

**Leader:** We pray for God's healing of those who are sick throughout the world

**People:** We pray for God's strength for medical personnel serving tirelessly

**Leader:** We pray for God's insight to be given to researchers seeking solutions

**People:** We pray for God's wisdom to guide civic leaders and health officials

**Leader:** We pray for God's peace to guard us from fear or anxiety

**People:** We pray for God's provision for those whose livelihoods and income have been affected by this crisis

**Leader:** We pray for God's creativity to make us agents of love and compassion

**People:** We pray for racial reconciliation and compassionate civil dialog

**Together:** Lord, we pray for healing for our nation, that Your righteousness and truth and justice would be known, and that the Holy Spirit would draw people everywhere to the saving power of Jesus.

# Lord's Prayer

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Leader:** We thank you our Father, that you are love, and that you draw us into your love. We thank you, Jesus, for your demonstration of love, more than we could ever imagine, through your loving sacrifice, so that we might be saved and live in love.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for filling us and teaching us how to live in love... for leading us to know how to receive the love of the Father, and how to give his love to others.

Lord, continue to make us, we pray, more like Jesus. Help us to love like he loved. Help us to rely on the Spirit as he leads and directs our hearts and minds and wills.

In the name of Jesus, thank you.

## **Closing Prayer**

And now may the grace and love of God fill you to overflowing. Go into the world, loving and being loved, so that God may be glorified. Amen