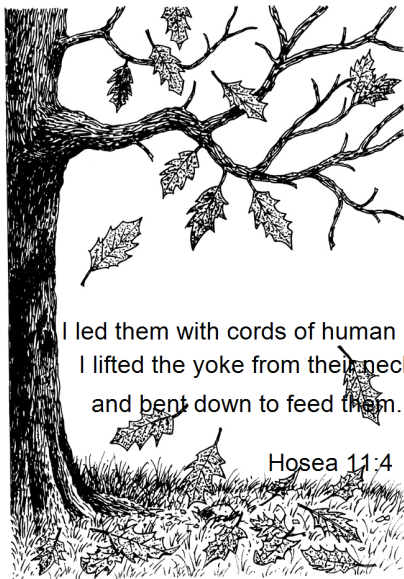


Sing Alleluia to the Lord

By Linda Stassen

Please find words in the print copy.



I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love;
I lifted the yoke from their neck
and bent down to feed them.

Hosea 11:4

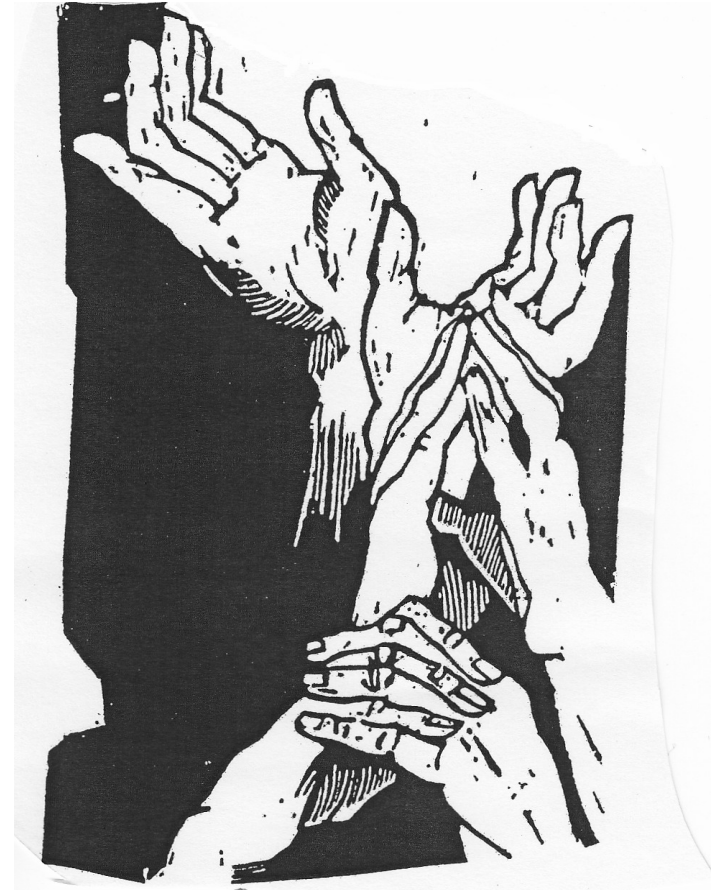
We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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Old Orchard Church

November 8, 2009—10:15 to 11:45 a.m.



...work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12b-13

Celebrating Our Sanctification in Jesus Christ by Faith Working

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ,
who takes our condemnation
and gives us his righteousness when we look away
from our performance and trust his at the cross.
Thanks be to God who thus justifies us by a faith
which quietly rests rather than feverishly works!
But thanks be to him, too, who sanctifies us—
Who presses holiness into our character—
by a faith which works rather than rests.

O God, make us ever confident
that Christ by his Spirit is in us to empower our feeble efforts,
that we might grow into the character of our Lord.

O God, teach me what gratitude I owe you,
so that wrestling my body into submission to your righteousness
will not be a burden but a great high privilege
of being co-worker with you:
as you purify me, as you change me,
as you love me, as you use me,
for Christ's sake, whose I am.
Alleluia and Amen!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Hosea 11:1-11

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon Series on Matthew

“Let Love Win through YOU”

Matthew 22:34-40

Guest Preacher: Dr. Edward Gross,

CityNet Ministries, Coordinator of Strategic Alliances

The Work Project

The Haunted Heart

The heart is a maze that only God can solve (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Computers can't decipher its floor plan. We modestly admit we don't know someone else's heart, but the truth is we can't even know our own. Do you always know why you choose chocolate over vanilla? Why one day your passions sizzle and another you're a dead leaf in the wind? Can you number all the events and images that impress your heart and make it lean this way or that? Haven't you been surprised by the insincerity and even intrigue you've found in your heart?

But the heart is more than complicated, and unsearchable: it is **“deceitful above all things”** (verse 9). Every night Tom Brokaw tells us about shady politics and business scams. People finding loopholes in the law to use their sweat-earned money to build stately pleasure domes in Zanadu. But the sleaziest back-room Mafia deal can't equal the deceitfulness in your heart. The heart is “deceitful above *all* things.”

Do you doubt it? Think how fickle you are. One day you're a sage, the next a clown. You can be open and cheery or reserved and gloomy, easy to get along with or a real crank, romantic or frosty. One day Jesus is all the world to you; the next, you love the world more than King Midas did.

And think of your inconsistencies. Your mind says tithing is right, and your will puts the money in the plate—but all the while you wish God weren't so demanding. Or you know that secret communion with God is a feast for your soul, and you long for it—but you can't roll out of bed, or if you do, your mind zooms everywhere in the universe except to heaven. Or your mind knows that lust is evil and dangerous, but you put yourself to sleep at night imagining a weekend in Monterey with the hunk two apartments down.

The Hidden Horrors

This unsearchable, deceitful heart is where sin hides. The Preacher said, **“The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live”** (Ecclesiastes 9:3). Jesus called the heart the fountain of sin (Matthew 15:19), and a treasure chest where we sock away evil (Luke 6:45). Put all this together and you have a scene no director could stage....

No Surrender

Never think for a minute that the war against sin is over in this life. There isn't even a cease-fire. Many generals have been surprised because they were careless after a victory. Countless believers have been ambushed on the heels of a giant step forward in faith. David, for example, lived a long life of devotion and duty to God, and saw mercy on mercy from God's hands; then sin tiptoed up behind him in the dark and stabbed him in the back.

If you violently war against your flesh, you'll win ground. It will grow weak, and you'll grow in grace into the image of Christ. Still the work has to be endless as long as we're in this world. If you cut the flesh any slack, you'll watch it regroup and revive. You may even end up worse off than you were before (compare Luke 11:24-26).

—From *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard (1998)