

"Like A Mighty River Flowing

Words: Michael Perry (1942–1996) Music: German melody (14th c.)
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

See print copy for words.

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.**

Credits

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Old Orchard Church

– June 16, 2013 – 10:15 to 11:50 a.m. –

See printed copy for art work.

The father of the righteous
will greatly rejoice;
he who fathers a wise son
will be glad in him.

Proverbs 23:24

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Eternal Son of the Eternal Father

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
He whom the eternal Son loves and glorifies always!

Bless the Lord on high for his Fatherhood,
That fatherhood from which flows
Every family on the face of the earth.

Exalt the Lord for the great condescension of his care:
We do not call him Father because we have fathers;
But in grace and mercy
He gives us to be a copy of his everlasting, fatherly affection
For the Son of his love—
The Son without beginning or end;
The Son he honors,
The Son who loves him,
The Son he gave up to death
For our sake.

Come, worship the triune Lord
in the beauty of his eternal and fraternal holiness.
Amen and amen.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 89:20-37

Gospel Reading: from John 17

Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series

“We/They, Old Me/New Me, We/He:
Christian Witness to the Kingdom of God”

Ephesians 4:17-5:16

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

Father and Son—And Us

Father...I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23)

And this leads us to consider the second thing that the Lord desires the world should learn from the manifested union of His people, namely, “**that you... have loved them even as you have loved me.**” Wonderful words of unspeakable import! It is a fact yet to be revealed to and known by the world that Jehovah, the Father, loves the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, even as He loves the Lord Jesus Christ HIMSELF! Do we professing Christians *now believe* this gospel of our glory, even that our Father in heaven never loved and never will love His own Christ, apart from us? And that He never regarded us and never will regard us apart from Christ? That we are beloved of the Father as being *one* with His Christ,

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:4-6 NIV)

And that He will continue to love us so through a coming eternity, even as He loves the Lord Jesus Christ. And that He will never change in His love meantime, notwithstanding all the shortcomings we confess; notwithstanding all the inconsistencies which weary us, and notwithstanding all the chastening hidings of His face. For He loves us as He loves Christ, notwithstanding the peculiarities in our circumstances, many of which puzzle us, and puzzle others. He will never cease to love us, because He will never cease to love Christ. His love for us is infinite, and there are no degrees in infinity!

Now, since this is truly so, let us learn to depend upon our Father’s love at all times, and under all circumstances. Let us confide to our Father our cares, our distresses, our anxieties. Let us be in love with our Father, who has been so much in love with us, and let us expect great things from the love that loves, even as Christ is loved, and love and wait upon our Father.

What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him— (I Cor. 2:9 NIV)

He has already given us three pledges of His love in the gift of His Son, in the gift of His Spirit, and in the gift of His Word. Oh, what must remain to us of blessing, where we have already such pledges of His love!

—Marcus Rainsford (c. 1820-1897) in *Our Lord Prays for His Own*