

A Virtual Love Feast

While Sheltering in Place

May 10, 2020

Gathering in Our Homes:

Song of Praise: “Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place”

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Be present at our table LORD.

People: Be here and everywhere adored.

Pastor: Thy creatures bless, and grant that we,

People: May feast in paradise with thee.

The Message: “John 14:1-14”

The 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.

Prayer of Confession: Almighty LORD, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we offer praise and thanksgiving to you. You have called us to yourself and have begun the work of transformation in our lives. Today, we recommit ourselves to pray and seek your presence. Enable us to confess our sins; those things we do not do that we should, and those things we do that we should not! And let us be quick to rejoice knowing you forgive us. O God, as all the people praise you, bring forth your increase in the earth and bring forth your increase within your people. Enable all Your children to prosper as our souls prosper in the knowledge of you. In your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Faith: You LORD are my rock, my fortress, my deliverer; you are the God of my strength in whom I trust; You are my shield, my salvation, my stronghold, and my refuge; You are my Savior; I call upon you LORD because you are worthy to be praised. I sing to you LORD, with all the earth; I proclaim the good news of your salvation; I declare your glory among the nations; for you LORD are great and greatly to be praised. I praise and adore you because you alone are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You are Eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Serving Each Other in Love:

Hymn: “Freely, Freely”

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,

I've been born again in Jesus' name

and in Jesus' name I come to you,

to share his love as he told me to.

(refrain)

He said, Freely, freely, you have received,

Freely, freely give

Go in my name, and because you believe,

Others will know that I live.

In a letter John Wesley wrote to John Trembath he said, “O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not: What is tedious at first, will afterwards be pleasant. Whether you like it or no, read and pray daily. It is for your life: there is no other way....Do justice to your own soul: give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer” (Vol. 12;p. 254). His words continue to be good advice.

Sharing the Love Feast with Jesus

SMBTS Invites You to “A Virtual Love Feast”

Sunday, May 10, 2020

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal that expresses the koinonia (community, sharing, & fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ. John Wesley first experienced it among the German Moravians in Savannah, Georgia and later wrote about it in his journal.

The Love Feast is held when celebration of The Lord’s Supper would be inappropriate. For example, like Sunday, when we are unable to be together. The Love Feast is often held with persons seated in a circle. The big difference is, on Sunday, we will be participating in our own homes as we thank Jesus for being in our midst both individually and corporately ... even though we are separated!

Testimonies and praise are the focal point and as Wesley counseled, all done decently and in order. Prayer is vital! Scripture is important! And most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. It is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord’s Supper, which it is not. Regular bread, crackers, sweet bread, and even donuts have been used. The beverage is usually water, but lemonade, tea, or coffee have been used. These snacks can be consumed as we consider the following question:

(you may want to write answers for your own reference)

- 1.) In this time of separation in recent days or weeks, how have I experienced the presence of Jesus?
- 2.) Whether present with family where I live or living alone, how can I be a blessing to someone else?
- 3.) Other thoughts & Conversation?