

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

Midweek Lenten Service

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Jan Smith, Accompanist

Taizé Style, Week 5

GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

WELCOME

OPENING SONG ACS #918 "Now is the Time of Grace"

PSALM READING (read responsively) Psalm 143

PSALM RESPONSE SONG ELW #751 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (on back side)

REFLECTIVE MEDITATION

During this time of meditation, you are invited to rest, breathe, and reflect in whatever way is life-giving for you.

Here are some ideas—

- Reflect on where you are finding love or not finding love in your life today.
- Imagine how you might share God's gift of love in the world.
- Gaze at the mirrors. How are you seeing God today? What mysteries about God do you hope to see?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

CLOSING SONG ELW #359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.